



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Street
Lyndora, PA 16045-1314



УКРАЇНЬСЬКА 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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Protopresbyter William Diakiw,
Attached

Parish Board President:

Maria Corbin

Choir Director: Lydia Rudolf

JANUARY 2, 2022 SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

January 2, 2022

Sun before Theophany
Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ. Epistle Reading:
St. Paul's Letter to the 2 Timothy 4:5-8,
Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy –10:00

Saturday

January 8, 2022

Great Compline for the feast of
Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus
Christ
6:30 pm

Sunday

January 9, 2022

**The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ,**
Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Gospel Reading:
Matthew 3:13-17
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy –10:00

SUNDAY

January 16, 2022

30th SUN AFTER PEN — Tone 5.
Veneration of the Precious Chains of the
Holy and All-glorious Apostle Peter.
Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the
Colossians 3:12-16, Gospel Reading: Luke
18:18-27
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy –10:00

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

THOUGHTS ARE SALVATION FOR US, IF WE REALIZE THAT THEY ARE BAD,
BATTLE AGAINST THEM AND DO NOT BRING THEM TO FULFILLMENT.

ELDER ANATOLE OF OPTINA

GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7



hope of eternal life.

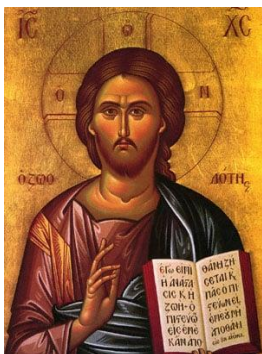
Titus, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Denny Zymboly, Ruth Dally, Alex Shott, Philip, Eric, Greg, Carl, Kayden, Rose, Dorothy Cygan, Helen, Fr. William, pani Sonia, Fr. Vasyl, Mary-Ann, Mary-Ann, Payton, Anthony, Tina, Mykola, Stella, Maksymko, Fr. Yurii, Maria, Fr. Jakiw, Fr. George, Volodymyr, Alexandr, Vincent, all the doctors and nurses and everyone who was infected by COVID-19.

The Gospel According to Matthew 3:13-17



At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

PARISH NEWS AND UPDATES

Happy and Blessed New 2022 Year of our Lord from the President of the Consistory

We stand at the gateway to a brand New 2022 Year of our Lord. It's time to look back, look forward, and mostly to live in the present moment.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and blessed Nativity/Christmas, in addition to a wonderful New Year in 2022, overflowing with the glorious presence of the Grace of the Holy Spirit!

May we all seize this Nativity/Christmas season and make it our primary purpose to talk to someone about the wonderful joy, peace and love that Jesus Christ brought to all mankind over 2000 years ago! This unchanging message still brings hope, excitement and blessed assurance of eternal salvation to millions of people around the world!

I hope that you are all filled with optimism for the future, while being content with the present, regardless of the challenges that the present world brings into our lives. If you renew your faith in the guiding hand of the Lord's Divine Providence, and trust Him, then you will find that all your concerns will fade away and angelic peace will take its place.

On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Members of the Council of Metropolia and Consistory, I wish you health, love, and happiness in this New Year and beyond. God bless you always!

+Daniel, by the Grace of God Archbishop and brother in the Lord

Please remember, this week on **Thursday, 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!** Due to the absence of cantor, we are transferring the celebration of Divine Liturgy and Great blessing of water for Sunday **January 9th!**

As we celebrate the Feast of Theophany we also will be participating in the practice of the Blessing of Homes as is the time-honored tradition associated with the celebration of this Feast.

This month, we are going to have Executive Board Meeting on **Monday, January 10th at 6:00 pm!**

We offer a word of thanks to Bob Shott and Ruth Dally 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 wish to announce that January 14th, 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 **Janury 14th!** Please, come and help as we work together once again for the good of our Parish in this special way.

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 (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!

*******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.

The Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvellous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine "those who sat in darkness," and "in the region of the shadow of death" (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but "to bury human sin by water," to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify "the nature of water" and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us

to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ" (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.

Depicting one of the greatest days of the Christian year we see in the icon of the "Epiphany," the manifestation of God. Also known to us as "Theophany," meaning "God reveals Himself to us," we see the Holy Trinity clearly revealed for all humankind to know. The Icon of the Baptism of Jesus brings us visually and symbolically into the presence of the manifestation of God. In its presence, we know that God reveals Himself to us, and that through our own baptism, established in the Baptism of Christ, we are made new in the Lord.

Our Christian life begins with our own Baptism and Chrismation into the Orthodox Faith. Membership in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church is based on our participation in the Holy Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation. Our membership in the Church, however, does not stop once we are baptized. It is the beginning of our life in Christ! It is the means by which we become citizens of the Heavenly Kingdom! Holy Baptism has enabled us to become partakers in the gift of salvation!

Our first STEWARDSHIP offering comes during our Baptism. In thanksgiving for the gift of new life in Christ, we make a personal sacrifice. The tonsuring of the hair is a symbol that we give a part of ourselves to God. This act of the newly baptized member of the Church is done freely and cheerfully. By this act we declare that we will not only offer a part of ourselves to God, but will commit our whole life to Him!

Every Orthodox Christian household must again consider the reason for having been baptized into Christ. When we acknowledge the gift of eternal life offered through Holy Baptism, there is no question as to why we must develop and grow as stewards of the Faith!

See: Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; John 1:29-34; Romans 6:3-11; Colossians 2:12

Tropar of Holy Epiphany, First Tone

Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved, and the Spirit, in the guise of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

Kontakion of Holy Epiphany, Fourth Tone

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light.

We're glad you are here to worship Almighty God with us. We are a parish of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, a canonical Orthodox church under the authority of the Ecumenical Patriarch. As Orthodox Christians, we believe in one God in Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We also believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God made man, was born of the Virgin Mary and suffered, died and rose from the dead so that we may have eternal life. Our Orthodox Faith is the universal living continuation of the Apostolic Church that was founded by Christ Himself. We seek to share the Good News of our faith and invite everyone to come and see and