

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Rd. Lyndora, PA. 16045
724-287-4448(Church)
724-282-6190 (Hall)
<http://peterandpaulclyndora.itgo.com>
January 1st, 2021

Father Yurii Bobko, Pastor
908-458-2076(Cell Phone Number)
Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Attached
Parish Board President: Robert Prokopchak
Choir Director: Lydia Rudolf

******* PARISH NEWS AND UPDATES *******

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 the intercession of Saints Peter and Paul we hope and pray that our community might grow into a full-fledged Parish in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. Through your prayers and dedication of time, talents, and donations, this can become a reality in all faith and love.

Dear brothers and sisters! We would like to remind you that we all still under the Coronavirus restrictions; please, before going to the church make sure you have read all the responsibilities and rules that applied for the church visit during these days!

We wish to announce that we will have religious classes for children every three weeks and also adult education (catechism) for those who are interested every last week of the month. As you already know our religious classes and catechism are going to be held on Sunday after Liturgy.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who came out to help these past weeks at our Pirohi Sales. We again encourage everyone to come out to help with the next Parish Pirohi Sale on **January 15th, 29th** as we work together once again for the good of our Parish in this special way.

We would like to announce that Fr. Yurii together with Fr. Martin the pastor of the Antiochian Orthodox Church are going to perform **7th Annual Outdoor Great Water Blessing at Moraine State Park Pleasant Valley Boat Ramp on January 10th, 12:30 pm**. Please, join us join us as we continue to celebrate the Baptism of Christ, by the blessing of the waters of Lake Arthur!

PLEASE NOTE, if there is a need for confession or home visit, you will need to inform Fr. Yurii and after this the time and day will be appointed for home visit or for confession at the parish Church of Ss. Peter and Paul!

*******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 house. 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 holidays 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.