



Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church
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March 22, 2020

Father Yuri Bobko, Pastor
 Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Attached
 Parish Board President: Robert Prokopchak
 Choir Director: Lydia Rudolf

Today's Commemorated Feasts and Saints:

3rd Sunday of Great Lent: Veneration of the Cross

*****PARISH SCHEDULE*****

Today: Divine Liturgy 10 AM

Sunday March 29, 2020: Divine Liturgy 10 AM

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

As was announced last week, our upcoming pirohi sale and bake sale have been canceled due to the coronavirus. This does not bode well for our parish finances. Now and in the coming days, many people in our area will also be struggling financially due to their places of employment being closed. Please keep your eyes and ears open for any opportunity to help those in need, if you are able. Also be sure to pray for all the people who have been negatively affected by the pandemic. After you have cared for your fellow people, please consider donating a little extra to your parish in the next few weeks. In addition to some of the supplies for the upcoming sale having already been purchased, we have had to spend at least a few thousand dollars in cleaning, painting, repairs, and general preparations at the rectory ahead of the arrival of our new pastor.

As of the writing of this bulletin, it stands that we have been directed by our hierarchs to suspend all worship services except Sunday Divine Liturgy until further notice. We will also not be holding coffee hour until further notice. We continue to encourage those over age 65 and those with compromised immune systems to refrain from venturing out during the pandemic. You are under no obligation to attend church while the pandemic continues. Clergy in the diocese have been directed to celebrate Divine Liturgy every Sunday morning, with only a reader or cantor. **The Eucharist MUST be offered "in behalf of all and for all" during this horrific crisis.** We will not close the doors in the face of our faithful who wish to participate in the Liturgy, but the restrictions of remaining at least six feet apart must be followed as per government and CDC recommendations.

From <http://orthochristian.com/>

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT. THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

For the preaching of the cross is ... unto us which are saved... the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18



On the third Sunday in Great Lent, at the All Night Vigil (on Saturday evening), the Life-Giving Cross is carried out from the altar to the center of the church for the veneration of the faithful throughout the week.

As a traveler weary from a long journey rests under a broad, leafy tree, so do Orthodox Christians making their spiritual journey to the Heavenly Jerusalem—to the Pascha of the Lord—find at the halfway point of their path the “Tree of the Cross,” that they might gather strength under its canopy for their onward journey. Or, as before the arrival of the king returning from victory is preceded by his standards and scepters, so also does the Cross

of the Lord precede Christ’s victory over death—His Bright Resurrection. At this veneration we sing: “Before Thy Cross, we bow down, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify.” The Church presents the Cross to the faithful in the middle of the Forty Days in order by this recollection of the sufferings of the Lord’s death to encourage and fortify those who fast to continue their labor of fasting. The veneration of the Cross continues throughout the fourth week of the fast until Friday, and this is why the entire fourth week is called, the Week of the Veneration of the Cross.

“The Cross is the guardian of the whole world, the Cross is the beauty of the Church, the Cross is the might of kings, the Cross is the strengthening of the faithful, the Cross, angel’s glory, and wound to demons.” Thus does one of the Church’s hymns explain the significance of the Cross for the whole world. “By dipping the pen of the cross in the red ink of Thy blood, Thou O Lord didst as king sign the forgiveness of our sins,” says one of the stichera for the feast.

MAY CHRIST OUR GOD GRANT TO HIS SERVANTS ALL OF THE FAITHFUL OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AND ALL OUR VISITORS TODAY, PEACE, HEALTH AND SALVATION AND MAY HE SAFEGUARD AND KEEP US ALL FOR MANY YEARS!