



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
 21 EVERGREEN RD. LYNDORA, PA. 16045

SCHEDULE OF LIVE STREAM SERVICES

FACEBOOK.COM/UOCLYNDORA/VIDEOS
 MAY 23 – MAY 31, 2020

Date	Feast	Service	Time
May 23 Sat.	6th Sunday of Pascha – Tone 5 Blind man, Ven Simeon the Stylite of the Wonderful Mauntaion	Great Vespers	6:00 pm
May 24 Sun.		Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: Acts. 20:16-34, John 9:1-38	10:00 am
May 27 Wed.	The Ascension of Our Lord St. Nicetas, Bishop of Chalcedon	Great Vespers	6:00 pm
May 28 Thur.		Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: Acts. 1:1-12, Luke 24:36-53	10:00 am
May 30 Sat.	7th Sunday of Pascha – Tone 6. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, Apostel Hermes of the Seventy	Great Vespers	6:00 pm
May 31 Sun.		Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: Acts. 20:16-18, John 17:1-13	10:00 am

All service will be on FaceBook Live (Sts. Peter and Paul Page)

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Rd. Lyndora, PA. 16045
724-287-4448(Church)
724-282-6190 (Hall)
<http://peterandpauloclyndora.itgo.com>
April 7th, 2020

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 *****

Dear brothers and sisters! This week, I had the opportunity to take part in a video clergy conference with our hierarchs and priests of our Holy Ukrainian Church. The topic of discussion was the opening of churches in our Ukrainian Orthodox Church during this difficult pandemic. The text of that our bishops address, I will add below and you can follow the link to read it. We as Church family have to prepare our church for opening and take into account all the instructions of our bishops, as well as recommendations that are not given in the text of the appeal. One of them is for one-two weeks to monitor developments with coronavirus pandemic and the growth of the infected in our state. According to Archbishop Daniel and news, churches were opened in Texas, after which the cases of coronavirus infection increased sharply and the Texas authorities were forced to close churches again ... We must take responsibility for this because people's lives are in danger; hence, once our parish administration has made the appropriate decisions, we will inform you of any new information! God's blessing be with all of you! PLEASE follow this link to see the last message from our hierarchs of the UOCofUSA - https://www.uocofusa.org/news_200521_1

Thus, for next two weeks we will celebrate the Liturgies and other liturgical services behind closed doors until the decision will be made, only with priest and cantor at the Church. Please, keep watching our live stream services on our Facebook page which is going to be streamed from our Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church parish.

PLEASE NOTE: even if you do not have your own Facebook page (account), you could paste this link - [facebook.com/UOCLyndora/videos](https://www.facebook.com/UOCLyndora/videos) on your web browser of our Facebook page, and you should be able to watch us in your web browser.

As was announced before due to coronavirus, our pirohi sale will be canceled until June and after it until further notice. 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 for the need of the parish to maintain parish expenses during this time!

We as Church family looking forward for summer time thought which we are planning on making different food sales, festivals, and projects that will help us with reaching out people in the area as well as our financial status. As soon as all the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic end, we ask all of our parish members to take an active role in parish life and support Christ Church taking different responsibilities to maintain Church life, and to glorify God; in the same way, it will help us on our way of coming closer to God by evangelizing true Word of God into the world.

We all are aware of how much we as a Church family miss our Church Services and especially the need of participation in the Holy Mystery of Holy Eucharist receiving the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We pray that you stay healthy and joyful throughout this time of uncertainty, and looking forward get together in our temple and worshipping and glorify God as soon as possible!

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!

As we have stated to you in our earlier communications: Throughout all this time of threat, illness, concern and anxiety let us remain faithful witnesses of God's LOVE and COMPASSION for us. Let us in all circumstances pray for His embrace of all humanity. Let us beseech the Mother of God for her protection and that she will intercede with her Son and our God beseeching His healing touch on all our lives. Let us contemplate the two new and greatest commandments of all: *"The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."* (Mark 12:30-31)

*****REFLECTION FOR THESE WEEKS*****

Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ



Every year, on the 40th day after Pascha, on Thursday, the 6th week of Pascha, the whole Orthodox world celebrates one of the twelve holy feasts of the church year - the Ascension of our the Lord Jesus Christ.

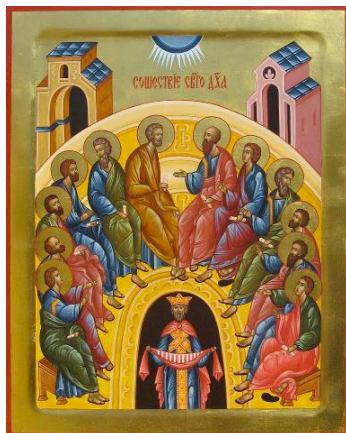
The name of the feast reflects the essence of the event - this is the Ascension to Heaven of the Lord Jesus Christ, the completion of His earthly ministry. The number 40 is not random but meaningful. In all of Sacred History, this was the time of the end of great feasts. According to the law of Moses, on the 40th day, infants were to be brought by their parents to the temple, to the Lord. And now, on the fortieth day after the Resurrection, as if after the new birth, Jesus Christ was to enter the heavenly temple of His Father, as the Savior of mankind.

Having defeated death, this is a terrible consequence of sin, and thus giving the opportunity to rise in glory, the Lord lifted up human nature in His Face, including the human body. Thus, the Lord revealed to every person the opportunity in universal Resurrection to ascend to the highest abode of light to the very throne of the Most High. The Evangelists Mark and Luke tell us about the Ascension event, you can read about this in particular in the book of the Acts of the Holy Apostles in Chapter 1.

After giving the disciples the last instructions, Jesus Christ "brought them out of the city to Bethany and, raising his hands, blessed them. And when he blessed them, he began to move away from them and ascend to heaven. They bowed to Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy ... "The Ascension Day is a feast of Heaven, the opening to the man of Heaven, as a new and eternal home - Heaven as a true homeland. Sin separated the earth from heaven and made us earthly and

one earth living. This is not about planetary space and not about space. We are talking about Heaven returned to us by Christ, about Heaven, which we lost in earthly sciences and ideologies, and which Christ revealed and returned to us. Heaven is the kingdom of God, this is the kingdom of eternal life, the kingdom of truth, goodness, and beauty.

Pentecost – Holy Trinity



One of the main Christian feasts - Holy Trinity Feast - is celebrated on the 50th day after Pascha. In Orthodoxy, this is one of the twelfth feasts and glorifies the Most Holy Trinity. And it is called Pentecost because the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles took place on the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ.

After the ascension of Jesus Christ, the tenth day came: it was the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ. The Jews had the great feast of Pentecost in memory of Sinai law. All the apostles, together with the Mother of God and with other disciples of Christ and other believers, were unanimously in the same room in Jerusalem.

Thus, the Holy Spirit, according to the promise of the Savior, descended upon the apostles in the form of tongues of fire, in a sign that He gave the apostles the ability and power to preach Christ's teachings to all nations; He came down in the form of fire as a sign that he has the power to burn sins and purify, sanctify and warm souls.

In Jerusalem at that time there were many Jews who came from different countries for the feast. The apostles went out to them and began to preach in their native languages of the Risen Christ. The sermon had such an effect on those who listened to it that many believed and began to ask: "What shall we do?" Peter answered them: "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Those who believe in Christ willingly received baptism, there were about three thousand such people that day. Thus, the Kingdom of God, that is, the Church of Christ, began to take hold on earth. On this feast, in the churches immediately after the Divine Liturgy, Vespers is performed in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Comforter Spirit upon the holy apostles. During this service, kneeling prayers are read, for the sending of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of reason and the fear of God to us (prayer kneeling after a pure litany).

The Holy Church prays for the blessing of the grace of the Holy Spirit to all those present, as well as to the previously deceased fathers and our brethren and other relatives in the flesh, so that they also will become participants in the Kingdom of Glory in the land of the living...

Orthodox Christians on this day decorate houses and temples with green twigs of birch, flowers. This custom dates back to the Old Testament Church, when houses and synagogues were decorated with greens at Pentecost in memory of how everything bloomed and turned green during the Sinai Mountain on the day when Moses received the tablets of the law. The Zion's chamber, where the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, at that time, according to a common custom, was also decorated with tree branches and flowers.

On the occasion of the Trinity, they also recall the appearance of the Trinity to Abraham in the Mamvrian oak grove, therefore the temple decorated with greenery resembles that oak grove. And the flowering branches remind us that under the grace of God, human souls bloom with the fruits of virtues.

PRAYER IN TIME OF CORONAVIRUS



O Lord Jesus Christ, in Your loving care, You traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.

O Master and Lord, our Savior, Healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare.

For You are a Merciful and Loving God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen