



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Street
Lyndora, PA 16045-1314



УКРАЇНСЬКА 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

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

Wednesday, September 14

CROSS ELEVATION

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 1:18-24

Gospel Reading: Jn 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-35

Divine Liturgy – 9:30

Friday, September 16

**Great Vespers for 100th Anniversary
with Hierarchs**

6:30 pm

Saturday, September 17

Saturday after Cross Elevation

Sophia & daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 1:26-29

Gospel Reading: John 8:21-30

Hierarchal Divine Liturgy – 9:30

Sunday, September 18

Sunday 14th after Pen, after Elevation;

Epistle Reading: Epistle Reading: 1 Cor

16:13-24, Gospel Reading: Matt 22:1-13

Divine Liturgy –10:00

Sunday, September 25

Sunday 15th after Pen, martyr Paphnutius;

Epistle Reading: Epistle Reading: 2 Cor

4:6-15, Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Divine Liturgy –10:00

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

“UNTIL YOU HAVE SUFFERED MUCH IN YOUR HEART, YOU CANNOT LEARN HUMILITY.”

— ELDER THADDEUS OF VITOVNICA”

GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the 1 Corinthians 16:13-24



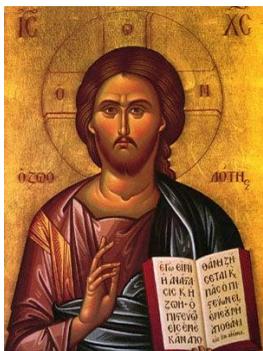
Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints –that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul’s. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the citizens and residence of Ukraine, Jean Markiw, Patrick, Debbie, Wesly, Cindy, Christine, 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 St. Matthew 21:33-42



Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’ So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?” They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will [a]render to him the fruits in their seasons.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.
This was the Lord’s doing,
And it is marvelous in our eyes’?

PARISH NEWS AND UPDATES

With humility and thanksgiving to Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we offer our greetings to His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, the Reverend Clergy and their families, seminarians, all the faithful of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and all our visitors for far and wide on our 100th Anniversary celebration this coming week.

Please remember that this coming week, we are celebrating our 100th Anniversary and we are going to have Vespers with wine and cheese reception on Friday starting at 6:30 pm, and the next day Hierarchal Divine Liturgy starting at 9:30 am. We encourage everyone to come and celebrate together with us our great 100th Anniversary celebration!

Please remember that on **Wednesday, September 24th**, we are celebrating one of the 12 great feasts of the Church year – **The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross!** We encourage everyone to come and celebrate together with us Divine Liturgy of this feast day!

We would like to express our gratitude and deep appreciation to Chad Hassler for repairing, together with Jeff Heiger and Maria Corbin helping with painting wooden side steps to Church on both parking lots.

Please remember, that St. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL will be hosting *Ukrainian Relief Dinner & Prayer Service on Sunday, September 25, 4:00 pm.* If you would like to participate, you could find all the information regarding this event on our Information Church Board.

We offer a word of thanks to everyone who came out to help with the Parish Pirohi Sale this past week on Thursday and Friday. Our next Pirohi Sale will be on Friday, September 23 and everyone are again invited to join us as we all work together for the good of our parish in this 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 **Mary McCarthy (September 4th)**, **Eugene Lesney (September 20th)** Happy Birthday! May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross



The pagan Roman Emperors tried to obliterate the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and rose from the dead, so that they would be forgotten. Emperor Hadrian (117-138) ordered that Golgotha and the Lord's Sepulchre be buried, and that a temple in honor of the pagan "goddess" Venus and a statue of Jupiter be placed there.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the Christian holy places, the Sepulchre of the Lord, and the Life-giving Cross, were discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory over Maxentius (in 312), who ruled the Western part of the Roman Empire, and over Licinius, the ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings, and where the Mother of God was buried after her Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead

man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found.

Christians came in a huge crowds to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was given the name Kyriakos, and later he was consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363).

Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church, she reposed in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Phokas (602-610) the Persian king Khozróēs II attacked Constantinople defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, capturing both the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years, and only under Emperor Herakleios (610-641), who defeated Khozróēs and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Lord's Cross returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-giving Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Herakleios, wearing a crown and his royal purple garments carried the Cross of Christ. The Emperor was accompanied by Patriarch Zachariah. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the Emperor stopped suddenly and was unable to proceed. The holy Patriarch explained to the Emperor that an Angel of the Lord was blocking his way. Herakleios was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Herakleios donned plain clothes, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true is gathered together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."

By God's Mercy Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

*To the Plenitude of the Church Grace, Peace and Mercy from the Maker of All
Creation Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ*

Most reverend brother Hierarchs and beloved children in the Lord,

As we enter, with God's blessing, the new ecclesiastical year today, we honor with the Feast of the Indiction the "Day of protecting the natural environment" and offer glory and gratitude to the Creator of all for the "great gift of creation."

We proclaim once again with all our heart that the respect for creation and the constant concern for its protection belong to the core of our Orthodox identity as one of its most precious elements. The Church recognizes and teaches that the cause of human alienation from the "very good" creation and one's fellow human beings is the "alienation from God." It boldly reminds us that there is no authentic freedom without the Truth and outside the Truth, which is the power that truly liberates. "Know the truth, and the truth will free you" (John 8.32).

For over three decades, the Holy Great Church of Christ emphatically and dynamically promotes the eco-friendly message of Orthodoxy through its diverse initiatives. September 1, 1989, will forever signify and symbolize the commencement of a movement that produced much fruit, raised awareness about the spiritual and ethical roots and parameters of the destruction of the natural environment, mobilized individuals and institutions, inspired the rest of the Christian world, highlighted the way of responding to this great challenge – a way that passes firstly through an understanding of its connection with the crisis of human freedom and the need for radical change in mentality and conduct with a view to creation, and secondly through a common and universal action given the global dimensions and tragic consequences of the ecological destruction.

An invaluable legacy for the future lies in the many important writings on the field of theological ecology, among which the work of the professor and academician, His Eminence Elder Metropolitan John of Pergamon, retain a prominent place. An inexhaustible source of inspiration will also be found in the presentations of the nine water-borne international symposia, which hosted renowned specialists and scientists as well as representatives of the cultural and spiritual worlds. These texts are especially beneficial for environmental learning, which has carved out a significant place in contemporary education. As it has rightly been said: "In the future, an education without ecological orientation will be a parody of education."

Sustainable development is a one-way street. It will secure ecological balance in the present and constitute a guarantee for the future, but it has its conditions: ecological economy, changes in agricultural and biomechanical productivity, the production and use of energy, the movement and transportation of goods, new models of consumption, and so on. Unfortunately, good intentions,

agreements and proclamations often remain theoretical, merely “big words,” without any impact on action, “superficial injunctions,” as it has been written. Humankind has not learned from the consequences of climate change, the destructive fires, heat waves, and floods, the rapid reduction in biodiversity, the pollution of the atmosphere and seas, the deforestation and social repercussions of the environmental crisis, above all revealed in the mass migration for ecological reasons. Humanity continues to be deluded about the innate capacity of nature to protect itself and overcome human-induced damages. We know, and yet we continue to act as if uninformed, suppressing the truth that with regard to its relationship to the natural environment, our modern technocratic and econo-centered civilization does not comprise progress, since the greatest devastation of the natural environment has taken place in our own time, and age where science and economy prevail. Climate change is an immense destruction caused by human irresponsibility and the impasse of our model of organization in the life of our economy. We only have a future if we understand that the protection of the integrity of creation does not only not comprise a hurdle for economic development, but is the vehicle for real progress.

This year, the celebration of the Day of the protection of creation are accompanied by the sound of weapons in Ukraine, by the cry of the victims of military violence, the bombardment of cities and infrastructures, the groaning of nature and moaning of refugees. Every war is a humanitarian and ecological catastrophe. The ongoing violence, beyond the thousands of human lives, also destroys the natural environment that it pollutes, forcing nations and peoples to return to ways of securing energy efficiency through means that are unfriendly to the environment. Thus, humanity enters a new vicious cycle of destructive impasses, which confirm the saying that *homo sapiens* to this day continues to behave simultaneously as *homo demens*, as imprudent and irrational.

Brothers in the Lord and blessed children,

For the Church, the elements of the world – according to a theological formulation – “are not simply utilitarian or useful material for the individual needs of human beings, but they are actions of the Person of the one Creator”. Everything created by God blesses, praises and exalts God to the ages, the heavens declare His glory. This is the message expressed by the concern of the Great Church for the protection of creation. The life of the Church of Christ is a foretaste of all that we expect in the Kingdom of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. On our way to the Eschaton, the Holy Church offers to the world the Gospel of grace as its guide and the unswerving certainty that evil, in all its forms, will not have the final word in history.

In closing, we wish you a blessed and fruitful new ecclesiastical year, and we call upon all of you, through the intercessions of the First-among-the-saints Theotokos Pammakaristos, the lifegiving grace and great mercy of the creator and redeemer of all, the pioneer and perfecter of our immaculate faith to whom be the glory and the dominion unto everlasting ages. Amen!

September 1, 2022