

# **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>  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 would like to greet His Eminence Archbishop Daniel to our Ss. Peter and Paul UOCofUSA parish who will celebrate Divine Liturgy together with us on **February 7<sup>th</sup>** and after Liturgy we would like to invite all of our parishioners to festal luncheon following the Divine Liturgy.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Ukrainian Orthodox League (UOL) of our parish for the Christmas donation to our church in the amount of 1000\$. We pray that more of you would join this organization and for those that are in the group now thank you for your dedication to our church and UOL.

We would like to thank Maria Corbin who donated new Christmas trees to our parish of Ss Peter and Paul in Loving memory of Gary Corbin. Thank you to all who assisted in decorating and undercoating the Church for the celebration of Holy Christmas and to those who prepared the waters for the blessing on Holy Theophany.

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 **February 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>** as we work together once again for the good of our Parish in this special way.

**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!

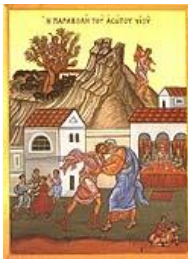
\*\*\*\*\* Preparation Weeks before the Great Lent\*\*\*\*\*



The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is itself preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man and how his life was greatly changed simply because he “sought to see who Jesus was” (Lk 19.3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through lent towards Easter. It is the first movement of salvation.



The following Sunday is that of the Publican and the Pharisee. The focus here is on the two men who went to the Temple to pray—one a pharisee who was a very decent and righteous man of religion, the other a publican who was a truly sinful tax-collector who was cheating the people. The first, although genuinely righteous, boasted before God and was condemned, according to Christ. The second, although genuinely sinful, begged for mercy, received it, and was justified by God (Lk. 18:9). The meditation here is that we have neither the religious piety of the pharisee nor the repentance of the publican by which alone we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ’s teaching, and to beg for mercy.



The next Sunday in the preparation for Great Lent is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Hearing the parable of Christ about God’s loving forgiveness, we are called to “come to ourselves” as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being “in a far country” far from the Father’s house, and to make the movement of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that the Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only “arise and go,” confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that “home” where we truly belong (Lk 15:11–24).



The next Sunday is called Meatfare Sunday since it is officially the last day before Easter for eating meat. It commemorates Christ’s parable of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31–46). We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in every man and by serving Christ through them. Our salvation and final judgment will depend upon our deeds, not merely on our intentions or even on the mercies of God devoid of our own personal cooperation and obedience. . . *for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and in prison and you visited Me. For truly I say to you, if you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me* (Mt 25). We are saved not merely by prayer and fasting, not by “religious exercises” alone. We are saved by serving Christ through his people, the goal toward which all piety and prayer is ultimately directed.



Finally, on the eve of Great Lent, the day called Cheesefare Sunday and Forgiveness Sunday, we sing of Adam’s exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord’s teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us.