



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Street
Lyndora, PA 16045-1314



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА
ЦЕРКВА СВ. ПЕТРА І ПАВЛА

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ss.peterandpauluocofusa@gmail.com

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

Cell phone: 908-458-2076

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<http://peterandpauloclyndora.itgo.com>

Protopresbyter William Diakiw,
Attached

Parish Board President:
Maria Corbin

Choir Director: Lydia Rudolf

MAY 1, 2022 SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 1

Prophet Jeremiah Paphnutius of Borovsk
Venerable Martyr Acacius **Tone - 1**
Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20
Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy – 10:00

Tuesday, May 4

Anniversary meeting 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 7

Great Vespers
6:30 pm

Sunday, May 8

Apostle & Evangelist John the Theologian
Tone – 2
Epistle Reading: 1 John 1:1-7
Gospel Reading: Jn 19:25-27; 21:24-25
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy – 10:00

Sunday, May 15

Ven Pachomius the Great Wonderworker
Isaiah Saint Achilles
Epistle Reading: Acts 9:32-42
Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15
Tone – 3
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy – 10:00

Monday, May 16

Board meeting
6:00 pm

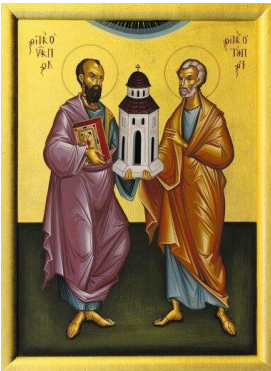
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

“AND SO LET US BE GLAD AND BEAR WITH PATIENCE EVERYTHING THE WORLD THROWS AT US. SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS THEN THAT WE ARE MOST IN THE MIND OF GOD.”

ST. BASIL THE GREAT

GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles: (5:12-20)

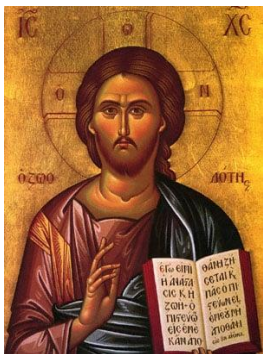


And through the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also, a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the citizens and residence of Ukraine, Lovie, 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 to St. John (20:19-31)



Then, the same day in the evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples, therefore, said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Thomas because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

PARISH NEWS AND UPDATES

May 1st – Potluck, benefit of Ss. Peter and Paul!

Tuesday, May 4 - Anniversary meeting 6:30 pm

May 15st – Coffee Hour, organized by Lydia Rudolf!

May 16th - We are going to have our ***Executive Board Meeting***.

Dear brothers and sisters, please remember if anyone is interested in sponsoring one of the open dates for coffee hour or would like to add a date during the month, please contact Karen Sheptak at smskks4568@gmail.com or 724-290-380.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Dear brothers and sisters! As we still in the Paschal season, I would like to greet you all once again with the Great Feast the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Rejoice in the Lord, for He has revealed Himself to us today, as the Savior of the World! I sincerely wish you all to meet and celebrate this great and solemn feast in peace and joy, good health and all prosperity. May the Risen Christ uphold and renew your strength so that you can always stand firmly and



unshakably on the rock that is Christ. May we continue to testify of the Resurrection of Christ not only by mutual greetings, but also by the action of the power of His Resurrection in our deeds in the laborious field of the earth, in order to inherit, by the inexpressible mercy of the Lord, eternal Pascha and endless joy in Heaven. Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Today as we still celebrate and in the Season of Pascha, we carry the joy of the Resurrection of our Lord to our departed family members and loved ones in the cemeteries as we Bless Graves. For this, we will follow the approximate schedule as follows for next **Sunday, May 8: North at 1:00, Rose Hill at 1:45-2:00, Butler Memorial Park at 3:45-4:00, and Green lawn at 4:30.** If the weather is bad, we will try for next Sunday.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who came up to help with our Bake Sale, Pirohi Sale and Flea Market last week. **All money gathered will be sent to Ukraine for help at this difficult time for Ukrainian people!** We will announce later how much we gathered for the help in Ukraine!

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!

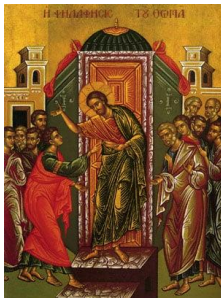
We encourage everyone to continue to give generously to our Capital Improvement Fund as we continue to work on different projects of maintaining and updating our Parish buildings.

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 **Rose and Ron Frenchak (anniversary, May 6), Ted Diakiw (May 10), Antoinette and Wayne Kennedy (anniversary, May 10), Caden Hassler (May 10)**, Happy Birthday! May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

SYNAXARION FOR THOMAS SUNDA



On this Sunday, the second Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the Antipascha, that is to say the re-dedication of the Resurrection of Christ, and also commemorate the event of the Holy Apostle Thomas' touching the wounds of Christ.

This commemoration is due to the ancient custom of rededicating important events. As a year would pass and the date of such an event would arrive, a commemoration was made so that such great events would not be forgotten. This is why the Israelites celebrated the Passover at Gilgal, to commemorate the passing through the Red Sea. They also commemorated the consecration of the Tabernacle of Witness that was in the wilderness and many

other holy events.

Since the Resurrection of the Lord is the greatest and most important event and beyond all thought, it is rededicated not only once a year, but also on every "eighth" day. The first rededication of the Resurrection is this present Sunday, for it is truly both the "eighth" day and the "first." It is the eighth day after Pascha, and the first day, because it is the beginning of the other days. Again, it is called the "eighth" day because it prefigures the unending day of the future age to come, which will be truly the "first" day and a day that is not divided by a single night. This is why this Sunday is called the Antipascha, which interpreted means "in the place of Pascha." We should also know that due to the honor given Sunday by the Lord's Resurrection, the Holy Apostles transferred the weekly day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) to this most honored day.

It is also called Thomas Sunday, the reason being as follows: On the day of the Resurrection, when Christ showed himself to the Disciples in the evening, Thomas was not present, because he had not yet joined the other Disciples for fear of the Jews. When he rejoined the others, not only did he not believe what they told him about the Resurrection of Christ and the fact that they had seen Him, but he absolutely refused to believe that Christ had risen, even though he himself was one of the Twelve. God the good Master, in His true economy, waited eight days to make His love more perfect, firmly willing to truthfully verify the Resurrection and also the events that had occurred after the Resurrection. Thus, Thomas did not believe so that he could more truthfully proclaim to all the belief in the Resurrection. Therefore, the Lord came to the Apostles again while Thomas was among them. Though the doors were shut as before, He entered and granted them peace according to the custom. He then turned toward Thomas and said, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:27). Then Thomas intentionally scrutinized the Lord's side more attentively, and receiving faith through the examination, he cried, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). He said "Lord" in witnessing to the bodily form of Christ and "God" in witnessing to His Divinity. Then Christ said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). This was the second appearance of Christ.

Thomas was called "The Twin" for one of several possible reasons: either he was born a twin - one of two children born at the same time; or because he was born doubtful of the Resurrection; or because by nature the middle finger and the index finger of his right hand were

joined together. Since by Divine Providence he was allowed to doubt, it was with these certain two fingers that he would probe Christ's side. Yet, others say that it is more likely and more truthful that Thomas, being interpreted, means "twin."

The third appearance of Christ was at the Sea of Tiberias during the catching of the fish where He even ate a meal of broiled fish and honeycomb; this particular food, as He alone knew, was consumed by the Divine Fire. This event gave further proof of the Resurrection of the body - not only His, but ours in the Age to come. After this, He revealed himself on the road to Emmaus. The fifth time He appeared was in Galilee to the eleven, as it is written. From the Resurrection until His Ascension, He worked before His Disciples many signs that surpassed all nature. However, He did not reveal all these signs to very many, for it was impossible for men yet living in this world to hear such inexpressible wonders.

Tropar of the Thomas Sunday

Christ our God, You are the Life that dawned from the grave, though the tomb was sealed. Through closed doors You came to the Apostles. You are the Resurrection of all. And, You renewed us through them with an upright spirit, according to Your great mercy.

Kontakion of Thomas Sunday

Thomas examined Your life-giving side with his probing right hand, O Christ our God. As You entered, though the doors were closed, he cried out to You, with the other Apostles "You are my Lord and my God."

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women



About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to the sepulchre, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils, that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called the Myrrh-bearers. Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called "the mother of James and Joses" (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chouza, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna. As for the names of the rest of them, the evangelists have kept silence (Matt 27:55-56; 28:1-10. Mark 15:40-41. Luke 8:1-3; 23:55-24:11, 22-24. John 19:25; 20:11-18. Acts 1:14).

Together with them we celebrate also the secret disciples of the Saviour, Joseph and Nicodemus. Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Saviour's preaching of salvation, he came to Him

by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counsellors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says (Matt. 27:60).

Tropar for Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday

Lowering Your pure body from the Cross, Joseph wrapped it in clean muslin with fragrant spices and laid it in a new tomb. But on the third day You arose, O Lord, and granted the world Your great mercy.

Kontakion of Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday

When you said to the Myrrh-bearers, "Rejoice!", O Christ our God, You ended, by Your Resurrection, the lament of Eve, the first mother. And, You commanded Your Apostles to proclaim, "The Savior has risen from the grave."

THE MYRRHBEARING WOMEN AND THE CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF TODAY

As you know, the third Sunday after Easter is the Sunday of the Myrrhbearing women, or the Sunday of the faithful women, keepers of Christian family. You should be joyful that you partake of this special honor from our Resurrected Lord. And through our most pure Mother Theotokos and the Holy Myrrh-bearing women, you have a Sunday a year when you are especially honored. May the Lord multiply in you the grace and gifts of the Holy Spirit and may the gift of Christian love abide truly in you, in order that you may become maintainers of Christian' warmth and harmony in your family. For many families today are met with disaster... as you know better than me, so I will not speak about it.

And those of you (faithful women) who come to church and pray to the Lord--here and in your home--if you pray attentively with love, humility and perseverance, you'll receive help from God and be comforted in your troubles.

As we preach today on the Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing women, let not forget that all of you--Orthodox Christian women and your daughters--are called to be the Holy Myrrhbearing women of the Orthodox Church today and forever.

The young girls and daughters can bring as myrrh to our Lord Jesus Christ, their clean life--virginity, their prayers and obedience to thier parents. All (college) students and young women who come to church regularly, can also bring to Christ our Saviour their mirth of good fragrance: the zeal for good deeds, mercy and charity towards those in suffering and obedience to their spiritual father.

The Christian mothers will offer our Master their most precious mirth, which is the birth, raising and education of children in the fear of God. But also the older mothers, the grandmothers and widows that are always present in the holy churches of God, may bring their ointment of tears and prayers as they piously keep the Orthodox faith and legacy passed on by our ancestors.

Behold, all daughters of the Orthodox Church, today you are the offspring of the Holy Myrrhbearing women when you hold in your heart the good fragrance of faith, prayer and Christian love. If you'll only run with devotion to church along with your children, as the Holy Myrrhbearing women once ran to the Holy Tomb of our Saviour.

On the Holy Myrrhbearing women I can also tell you that there were times in the life of our Saviour Jesus Christ when they were more courageous than the Apostles. Such, when our Lord was taken-up by the Jews in the Garden of Gethsemane, when all the Apostles--with the exception of St. John the Evangelist--left Him, and Peter betrayed Him by swearing three times that he does not know Him. But the women followed Him both to the council (of Pilate) and on the road to Calvary. They accompanied Him when He fell under the heaviness of the Cross, and Veronica with her veil wiped his tears, and her veil became the first icon bearing the image of Christ.

These holy women witnessed His beating, His nailing and His crucifixion (among the two thieves), they have heard the last words of our Saviour and wept bitterly when He gave His last breath saying "It is done!"

Even after the crucifixion of Jesus, when the Apostles were hidden for fear of the Jews, these women in that very early morning approached the Holy Sepulchre (Tomb) to anoint our Lord's body as it was customary in the Hebrew tradition. And just when they reached the tomb seeking our Lord's body, they found it opened and empty and an angel of the Lord announced them that „Christ had risen from the dead," showing them the empty shroud.

Mary of Magdalene, this brave women from whom Jesus exorcised seven demons, had become the greatest witnesses of Christ' Resurrection; she remained weeping at the grave while other women had left. She was still seeking for our Lord's body, but the tomb was empty. Then she met someone at the grave and thought to be the gardener. So she asked:

Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away

And "the gardener" Christ Himself, called her by name: Mary! His emphasis and tone of voice, made Mary recognize HIM. Although Jesus Christ was the same in flesh and blood, as He revealed Himself later to the Apostles, there was something changed in Him. It was undoubtedly His divine appearance, His transfigured flesh. And He was only recognized by those with a pure heart, that had their eyes enlightened.

Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God

(Excerpt from "Elder Sofian' spiritual conversations" translation by EC)