



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Road
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.

OCTOBER 1, 2023

Sunday, October 1 Protection Theotokos Apostle Ananias

Epistle Reading: 2 Cor 6:16-7:1
Gospel Reading: Luke 6:31-36
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy – 10:00

Saturday, October 7 Dance-A-Thon 10 am – 10 pm

Sunday, October 8
Ven Palagia the Penitent
Epistle Reading: 2 Cor 9:6-11
Gospel Reading: Luke 7:11-16
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy – 10:00

Sunday, October 15
Euthymius New of Salonica
Epistle Reading: 2 Cor 11:31-12:9
Gospel Reading: Luke 8:5-15
Confession – 9:15, Hours-9:45
Divine Liturgy – 9:30

CONTACT

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Parish Board President:
Maria Corbin
Choir Director:
Lydia Rudolf

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

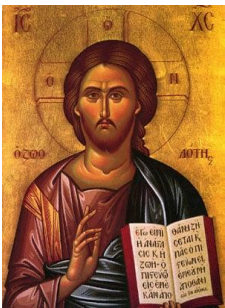
GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-7:1



And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

The Gospel According to Luke 6:31-36



A The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the citizens and residents of Ukraine, Stanley Ostwinch, Julia Walek, pani matka Lilia, Jean Markiw, Patrick, Debbie, Wesly, Cindy, Christine, Denny Zymboly, Ruth Dally, Philip, Eric, Greg, Carl, Kayden, Rose, Dorothy Cygan, Helen, Fr. Vasyl, Mary-Ann, Payton, Anthony, Tina, Mykola, Stella, Maksymko, Fr. Yurii, Maria, Fr. Jakiw, Fr. George, Volodymyr, Alexandr, Vincent.

October 1st – Annual Parish Board meeting with Potluck!

October 8th –celebration Samuel’s Bobko 1st Birthday! (**ALL INVITED**)

October 10th – Ss. Peter and Paul Fellowship meeting!

October 22nd – Coffe hour by Adriane Hassler!

October 23rd – Executive Board meeting!

We would like to announce that Sunday, October 1st after Divine Liturgy we are going to have ANNUAL PARISH Board Meeting. Also, we are going to have our Potluck. We encourage everyone to come and join us for the meeting and take an active part in the life of our parish!

Last week on September 28th our Hierarch Archbishop Daniel was celebrating his Birthday! We greet His Eminence Archbishop Daniel on his birthday! We pray that our Lord will grant him peace, safety, honor, good health and length of days “rightly teaching” the word of God’s truth! Axios! God grant you many blessed years Vladyko!

We would like to express our gratitude our men team of Steven Sheptak, Ron Markiw, Jeff Heiger, and Robert Prokopchak for cleaning the garage by the hall. It was a great effort, and they did a awesome job. Our hall garage is now fresh and clean.

The youth of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Christian Fellowship is sponsoring a **Dance-A-Thon on October 7, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. for the youth of Ukraine.** These young people of Ukraine have experienced war first hand and many are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) The Dance-A-Thon will be held at the Ukrainian Hall, on the corner of Arbor Street and Evergreen Road, Lyndora. For more information contact Karen Sheptak.

We want to announce that on **Saturday, October 14th, at 6 pm**, our Ss. Peter and Paul Fellowship organizing **Hayride Attraction at Lesney Farm.** Lesney's family will organize this event for all parishioners and friends of our parish. All are invited. We will have appetizers, hot chocolate, and drinks to enjoy. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet, which you can find on our Parish Information 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, October 13th** and everyone are again invited to join us as we all work together for the good of our parish in this way.

We would like to announce that **our Ss. Peter and Paul Fellowship will be holding its annual Fall Food Sale on Saturday, October 26-29.** We encourage everyone to get their orders in as soon as possible and plan to help with this effort. For more information about ordering or how to help on this Food sale, please talk to one of members of our Ss Peter and Paul Fellowship.

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!

PARISH CELEBRATION

From the bottom of Ss. Peter and Paul parish family heart we wish **Karen Sheptak (October 2nd), Samuel Bobko (October 3rd), Kat Rudolf (October 13th), Barb King (October 19th), Zach Prokopchak (October 27th)** Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary to **Adriane and Chad Hassler (October 1st)!** May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary



"O Mother of God, sheltered by Thy coming /
we faithful people today keep feast in joy, /
and looking at Thy most pure image, /
moved to the depths of our hearts, we say: /
Protect us with Thy precious Veil /
and deliver us from every ill, /
by entreating Christ, Thy Son and our God, /
to save our souls."

(Tropar in tone 4 - Protection of the Mother of God)

Early one morning, two sisters were getting ready for school, as one sister walked out of her room with one pillow on her back and one pillow on her chest. Her sister asked, "why do you have pillows on you?" "Well," she said, "the pillow on my chest is to protect from all the boys that will break my heart. And the pillow on my back is to protect me from all the friends that will stab me in the back."

We all have, at one time or another, felt like that sister who needed protection from the hurts and pains of our earthly life. The same was for the residents of Constantinople in the early tenth century (c. 911 A.D.), as they were under siege from pre-Christian Slavs. Threatened, overwhelmed and full of fear, the inhabitants of Constantinople turned to prayer. The people were able to assemble in the Church of the Mother of God at Vlacherna (Blachernae) where a relic; of the veil of the Virgin Mary was kept for veneration. During the all-night vigil service, Righteous Andrew fool-for-Christ, saw a vision of the Mother of God carrying her veil which she stretched out over the city and all the people. It was beneath her protection that all could come for refuge. Accounts vary as to how the siege ended, however the faithful believed that the Lord, through the prayers of His Most Holy Mother, had preserved their city from certain destruction.

One might say, "nice story, Father, but what meaning does it have for me 1100 years later?" This feast reminds us that, like the Orthodox faithful who have come before us, we are to remember and cherish the good things that have been done for us. The Divine Liturgy is a wonderful example of how we are to work together in the corporate nature of prayer. Praying not only with those who

are standing next to us but with the countless millions who have returned to the earth from which they were taken.

The universe is made up of two parts, spiritual and physical, and we stand at the edge of these two worlds. The Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God shows us the union of these two worlds. The miracle of this feast is that it was witnessed by the faithful and it was made visible to the human eye. It is a reminder to us that the Mother of God and all the saints are so close to us that they pray together with us in our churches.

We must remember that if we are to witness this vision we must shake off our blindness that comes from the darkness from within. If we have a revulsion against things, it is so often from the way in which we are centered on ourselves and can not look with serenity, with a purity of heart. Ultimately, we see not only with our physical eyes which convey to us impressions, but with a heart that can see God only when it is pure. We see not only God in His mysterious being, but God in His presence through grace and beauty and blessings such as the miracle of the Protection of the Mother of God. Saint Isaac the Syrian says, "that a person who has got a clear eye and a pure heart does no longer see the darkness in the world because this darkness is superseded by the shining of the divine grace at work and resting on all things, however dark they may appear".

The Holy Orthodox Spiritual Mothers and Fathers tell us plainly that the saints see everything as holy. They say that only the sinful see the sins of others. What strange statements. How counter-intuitive! But what this means is that the holy see the deepest realities. With their enlightened senses they look with compassion on everything and see things as they really are, such as the sojourner who was delighted with all things. If we are not yet able to see like that, to the essential heart of things, then we know we are far from where we want to be.

Let us be vigilant to see with purity, to interpret with purity of heart and to act with love. Then we shall be able to see freely the divine light shining on the world and in the world. In this manner we can better love, serve, and be part of the world which God given us.

All of us are capable of ascending the heights of holiness. This is God's promise for everyone, His help is assured, whether or not we succeed, depends entirely on us. Amen.

Mission of Kindness Continues Through the Efforts of the UOC of the USA



As the green leaves start to turn yellow and orange, we rejoice that the heat of the summer is passing, and we are entering the cozy months of Autumn. Warm fuzzy sweaters, crackling fires, hayrides, and pumpkin spice. The bustle of the summer months fades and the world seems to slow down and bask in the peacefulness of golden woodlands and falling leaves.

As inviting as this image is, it is merely a mirage, a distraction from the horrors and difficulties the people of Ukraine face at the hands of the unprecedented and unprovoked invasion of their peaceful and sovereign nation by the Russian Federation. The invading forces have systematically and intentionally brought havoc and destruction upon the innocent civilians of Ukraine. In the first months of the invasion, they entered villages and focused on torturing, raping, terrorizing, and murdering simple people who were just living their quiet lives. In the following months the Russian forces have continued to focus on destroying civilian infrastructure – highways, roads, bridges, train tracks and dams, all with a final goal of isolating and slowly killing off the Ukrainian population through hunger, disease, or outright bombings of their homes, markets, and churches.

On the Feast day of the Transfiguration of the Lord, Russian missiles aimed at and hit civilians who were out and about enjoying the sunny day after church services. Fruit brought to be blessed in church now rolled along blood-stained streets, as the earthly remains of women and children lay on the sidewalks and in their cars, some still holding their baskets with apples and grapes.

Just a few days ago dozens were killed, and many others wounded when a Russian missile struck a busy market in the city of Kostyantynivka. People were simply out shopping, buying produce to prepare their evening meals, planning menus for their children's lunches as they returned to school, purchasing freshly picked corn and tomatoes. Now many of those same parents and children lie in hospitals fighting for their lives, suffering third-degree burns, having lost limbs, their sight, and barely holding on to their lives, while trying to comprehend the disaster that has entered their lives.

From the start the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, her hierarchs, clergy and faithful have come to the aid of their ancestral homeland and her people. Over the many months this assistance has included food, shelter, medical care, and support for displaced people. Just this week with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the UOC of the USA, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel initiated a transfer of \$30,000 dollars generously donated by the faithful of the Church, as well as local American communities, to help alleviate the suffering faced by the people in Eastern and Central Ukraine.



These funds were a Godsend. Two trucks were filled with food, water, and medical supplies and immediately dispatched to the decimated cities that had suffered Russian missile strikes. Other supplies were purchased including uniforms for the military personnel as well as medical supplies, food, and water and forwarded to the men and women defending freedom on the frontlines.

Many injured, maimed, and internally displaced persons have fled their homes and slowly and painfully made their ways to larger cities, seeking shelter and assistance. Having found simple lodgings these people merely exist because they have no access to modern amenities. They live day by day, with meager supplies.

The city of Dnipro has warmly welcomed all the internally displaced persons. Working with Metropolitan Serhiy of the Donetsk Eparchy of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, the UOC of USA has been able to join in these efforts.

Hope has been renewed as desperate individuals have been shown mercy through the donations of the Church in the form of additional medical supplies, and orthopedic wheelchairs for the newly handicapped and maimed children. iPads were delivered to the kids, allowing them a momentary return to childhood as they were able to access the tools, they need to continue their schoolwork, as well as keep in touch with their families who are far away.

Microwaves and vacuum cleaners were provided to families in need allowing them to live in clean and healthy environments as they try to piece together torn apart lives. It is these simple, mundane items that bring a sense of regularity to chaotic and unpredictable lives and are priceless to those who gain a sense of normalcy they have not experienced in months.

The need is great. While you enjoy your pumpkin-spice latte and wrap yourself up in a fuzzy and warm sweater, **consider making another donation to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief Fund of the UOC of the USA**, and bring that same sense of coziness and peace to families who cannot even remember a time when they were not frightened, in pain, or hungry.

