



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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.

## DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2024

### **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** **Prophet Nahum**

Epistle Reading: Eph 2L4-10  
Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27  
**Divine Liturgy – 9:30**

### **Saturday, December 7**

**Great Vespers - 5 pm**

### **Sunday, December 8** **Ven Patapius of Thebes**

Epistle Reading: Eph 2:14-22  
Gospel Reading: Luke 17:12-19  
**Divine Liturgy – 9:30**

### **Sunday, December 15** **FOREFATHERS**

Holy Martyr Eleutherius  
Epistle Reading: Col 3:4-11  
Gospel Reading: Luke 14:16-24  
**Divine Liturgy – 9:30**

## CONTACT

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# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

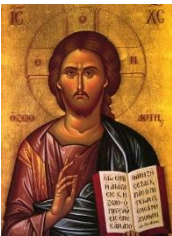
## GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

### The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:9-19



Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

### The Gospel According to Luke 18:18-27



At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the citizens and residents of Ukraine, Stanley, pani Lilia, Jean Markiw, Debbie, Wesly, Cindy, Christine, Denny Zymboly, Ruth Dally, Philip, Eric, 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, John, Frank, Rowena, Carol.

## PARISH NEWS AND UPDATES

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Potluck, bring a dish to share with everyone.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** – *Parish Church Saint Nicholas Day Program* will be held. Come out to join us as kids of our Church present a wonderful program! Ethan's birthday cake!

### **Semi-Annual Bake Sale – December 2<sup>nd</sup>0 December 4<sup>th</sup>**

It's time for our **Semi-Annual Bake Sale!** We encourage everyone to participate in this important event for our parish. Here's how you can help:

- **December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Join us for two days of baking as we prepare delicious treats to share with the community.
- **December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>:** Selling days, we bring our baked goods to those near and far.

Whether you can bake, sell, or simply lend a hand, your support is greatly appreciated. Together, let us work for the good of our parish and strengthen our community in this special way.

### **Thank You!**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in our Thanksgiving Project. Your generous donations of non-perishable foods and monetary gifts will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need within our community. Together, in remembrance of the Holodomor and in the spirit of Thanksgiving, you have shown the power of compassion and hope.

A warm thank you as well to all who stayed after the Divine Liturgy on November 24th to help decorate our Holy Temple for the Nativity season. Your dedication and love have created a beautiful and welcoming space to celebrate the joyous birth of Christ.

### **Pirohi Sale Announcement**

A heartfelt thank you to all who helped with our last Pirohi Sale! Your hard work and dedication made it a great success, and we couldn't have done it without the effort from our volunteers. ***We are excited to announce that our next Pirohi sale will be on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.*** We look forward to seeing everyone back in the kitchen as we continue this beloved tradition!

### **Q&A with the Priest**

Starting in November, we are introducing a new opportunity during coffee hour called Q&A with the Priest. This is your chance to ask Father any questions you may have about the Orthodox faith, spiritual life, or anything else you've been curious about. It's a casual, open conversation where no question is too big or small. Come join us, ask questions, and deepen your understanding in a relaxed and welcoming environment!

Since the establishment of our new Ss Peter and Paul Christian fellowship, we have achieved much together. From organizing events to aiding those in need, and simply coming together as one family, our efforts have been a testament to our commitment to serving others and glorifying God. We extend a warm invitation to all to become involved in our organization and contribute to our shared mission of serving our neighbors for the greater glory of God.

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.

### **PARISH CELEBRATION**

From the bottom of Ss. Peter and Paul parish family heart we wish **Ethan Bobko (December 8), Stephen Sheptak (December 25), Debbie Diakiw Roach (December 28)** Happy Birthday! May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

*Embracing a Spirit of Gratitude: A Thanksgiving Message from the Council of Bishops  
of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA*



Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we mark the annual observance of Thanksgiving Day in the United States, we invite each of you to join us in a deep, spiritual reflection on gratitude - a gift from God that is central to our Holy Orthodox Christian faith. Thanksgiving is not merely a moment on the calendar but an essential part of the life in Christ, a time for giving thanks.

The very word "Eucharist" in the Orthodox Church means "Thanksgiving." Each Divine Liturgy is a moment when we, as the faithful, unite in thanksgiving, offering ourselves and all of creation back to the Lord, who has blessed us with life, love, and freedom. Thanksgiving is, therefore, not only a holiday but a holy way of life - a life that calls us to see every blessing as a gift from God and to respond with love, reverence, and gratitude.

As Orthodox Christians in America, we are blessed to live in a nation that treasures freedom: freedom of speech, expression, and religion. These freedoms enable us to worship God openly, to bear witness to His truth, and to serve one another in Christ's love. On this Thanksgiving Day, let us be mindful of these privileges. Many throughout history and across the world have suffered greatly to secure these liberties, and many are deprived of them today. Our freedom is both a blessing and a responsibility, calling us to use these gifts for the glory of God and the betterment of our society.

We also give thanks for our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, which, since its founding in 1918 and even before, has been a steadfast beacon of the Gospel, a spiritual home for our faithful, and a guardian of the rich traditions of our Orthodox Christian faith. Throughout the decades, our Church has grown, strengthened by the sacrifices and faithfulness of those who came before us. We honor the memory of these spiritual forebears, and we take inspiration from their example as we continue their holy work of ministering the Word of God, caring for our communities, and supporting the beloved homeland of Ukraine.

This Thanksgiving, let us come together as families, friends, and communities to share our gratitude with one another. The Apostle Paul reminds us to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18), an instruction that speaks to the heart of the Orthodox way of life. Let us express our thankfulness to God, and let us also show our gratitude to those around us — our

families, our parish communities, and our neighbors. Let us be grateful for the kindness and love of those who support us, as well as for the opportunity to serve others.

As we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving Day, let us take a moment to remember those who are less fortunate. Let us offer prayers and share what we have with those in need, particularly the suffering, the lonely, and those affected by the tragic events in Ukraine. May our hearts be filled with compassion and our lives with generosity, as we honor Christ's command to love one another.

Together, let us offer a heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving: **"O Lord Almighty, Giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank You for the abundance of blessings You have poured out upon us. Grant us grateful hearts, that we may always recognize Your providence in our lives. Strengthen our love for one another, inspire us to serve those in need, and guide us in the ways of peace. We thank You for our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, our country, and for the freedom to worship You. May we live in constant remembrance of Your goodness, as we strive to become true bearers of Your love in this world. To You be all glory, honor, and worship, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen."**

As your hierarchs, we extend our prayers and blessings to each of you, beloved faithful. May this Thanksgiving season be a time of renewed faith, heartfelt gratitude, and joyous fellowship, reflecting the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We remain united in thanksgiving and prayer, as one holy family in the Lord.

*With love and gratitude in Christ, +Antony, Metropolitan +Daniel, Archbishop*

***Together, We Make the World a Better Place: UOC of the USA Brings the Light of Christ to Eastern Ukraine During the Nativity Season***



As the world prepares for the celebration of Christ's birth, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (UOC of the USA) remains a beacon of hope and love for those suffering in the shadow of war. With faith and compassion as their guiding light, the Church's charitable outreach program is transforming lives in the bombed-out regions of Eastern Ukraine. During the pre-Nativity season, marked by the feast of Saint Nicholas, the Church embodies the saint's legacy by delivering gifts, food, and hope to those in dire need.

*"Our mission is simple but profound,"* shares Very Rev. Fr. Kostyantyn Kuznetsov (dean of the Donetsk Deanery of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine), who leads this effort with his wife,

Natalia, and their son, Dmytro. *“We want to bring the joy of the Nativity to children, widows, and elderly people who have lost so much. Every box we send carries not just material support, but the love and prayers of our faithful.”*



The feast of Saint Nicholas, celebrated on December 6/19, holds a special place in the hearts of Orthodox Christians. Known as the protector of children and a symbol of selfless giving, Saint Nicholas inspires the UOC-USA’s outreach efforts. Through the support of parishioners and friends, the Church gathers toys, books, traditional Christmas candies, and Ukrainian-language literature for children, as well as food and hygiene items for families and the elderly.

This year, the outreach program has focused on areas like Pokrovsk and Druzhkivka, regions devastated by ongoing bombings. Many families have been displaced, and elderly individuals often remain trapped in ruins, unable to leave due to poverty or mobility issues.

“These are people who face unimaginable challenges,” explains Fr. Kostyantyn. “Children who’ve lost their homes, widows struggling to survive, and elderly individuals living in cold, dark apartments. We cannot erase their suffering, but we can remind them they are loved and not forgotten.”

The journey to deliver aid is fraught with obstacles. Roads are often impassable, and infrastructure has been destroyed. In many cases, the only way to reach those in need is by relying on Ukrainian postal services to deliver carefully packed parcels to remote areas.

Dobrodiyka Natalia, who helps coordinate the logistics, describes the process: “We pack every box with care, including toys for children, warm socks, and sweets. It’s not just about the items; it’s about sending a message of love. We want them to know someone cares.”

Dmytro, their son, plays his part as well. “I love helping pack the gifts,” he says. “I hope the kids who open them feel happy, even if just for a moment.”

The impact of the Church’s outreach is profound. Recipients often respond with tears of gratitude. “We received a call from an elderly woman who had been living without heat for weeks,” shares Natalia. “She said the food and blankets we sent saved her life.”

One young boy, who lost his father in the war, was overjoyed to receive a toy truck. “It’s the first time I’ve seen him smile in months,” his mother shared.

The UOC-USA’s efforts have inspired many to join the cause, but the need remains great. Archbishop Daniel, speaking on behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony – spiritual father of



the UOC of the USA, calls on all people of goodwill to help: *"In this sacred season of the Nativity, God calls us to reflect His love through our actions. Each child we help, each elderly person we comfort, is a testimony to Christ's light in the world. Let us rise to this calling, giving the best of ourselves as God's creation, to bring hope where there is despair and warmth where there is cold."*



Despite the hardships, the faithful and friends of the UOC of the USA remain unwavering in their commitment to serve. Fr. Kostyantyn reflects, *"Difficult trials have befallen every Ukrainian. But we are strong in spirit, and with God's help, we will endure. Love and freedom will triumph over darkness."*

The Church's outreach program is a reminder that even in the midst of devastation, acts of kindness can shine brightly. *"In these cold days, each of us can do a good deed to make every little one warmer,"* says Fr. Kostyantyn. *"Together, we can give them a holiday and moments of joy, showing them that they are not alone."*

[This Nativity season, let us join the UOC of the USA in the mission to bring the love of Christ to those in need.](#) Whether through prayers, donations, or acts of service, we can all be part of this holy work.