



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Road
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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.

FEBRUARY 16TH 2025

Sunday, February 16

PRODIGAL SON

Martyr Pamphilus

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 6:12-20
Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Divine Liturgy – 9:30

Saturday, February 22

Game Night – 5 pm

Sunday, February 23

MEATFARE

St Polycarp of Smyrna

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 8:8-9:2
Gospel Reading: Matt 25:31-46

Divine Liturgy – 9:30

Sunday, March 2

CHEESFARE

Epistle Reading: Rom 13:11-14:4
Gospel Reading: Matt 6:14-21

Divine Liturgy – 9:30

CONTACT

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Maria Corbin

Choir Director:

Lydia Rudolf

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READING

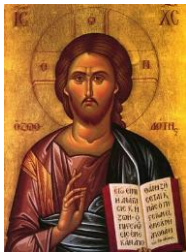
The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20



Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her?

For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

The Gospel According to Luke 15:11-32



The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder

son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the citizens and residents of Ukraine, Sherry, Barbara, Halyna, Patricia, Maria, 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

Join Us for Board Game Night! Mark your calendars for a fun-filled evening of games and fellowship! The Ss Peter and Paul Christian Fellowship is thrilled to host a Board Game Night on **Saturday, February 22nd at 5:00 pm** in the Church Hall. You can bring your favorite board games and join us for a friendly competition and laughter night. Light snacks will be provided for refreshments. This event is open to family and friends of all ages, so be sure to invite everyone you know for an enjoyable evening together. We look forward to seeing you there!

As we prepare to enter the season of Great Lent, let us be mindful of the significance of this time of repentance and renewal in our spiritual journey. Next week, we observe Meat Fare Sunday, marking the transition into Lent and our focus on deepening our relationship with God and our neighbors.

We are excited to announce our annual Pascha-Easter Bake Sale, scheduled for baking on **March 24th and 25th**, with sales continuing on **March 26th**. We invite you to join us and contribute to the success of this event, which serves as a wonderful opportunity for fellowship while supporting the needs of our parish.

Pirohi Sale

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 wish to announce that February 28th, we are going to have our next Pirohi Sale!** We look forward to seeing everyone back in the kitchen as we continue this beloved tradition!

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 **Amil Lesney (February 9th)**, **Lauren Heiger (February 12th)**, **Fr. Yuri Bobko (February 18th)** **Frank Hawryliak (February 23rd)**, **Mark Rudolf (February 24th)** Happy Birthday! May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

Camping Ministry Sunday – February 16, 2025



Beloved clergy, faithful, and cherished youth of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA: Christ is Among us!

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, we dedicate February 16, 2025, as **Camping Ministry Sunday**, and gather in prayerful reflection upon one of the Church's most sacred responsibilities: the spiritual nurturing and care of our youth. However,

this day is not merely an occasion for reflection or prayer. It is a call to action, an invitation to commit ourselves wholeheartedly to raising up mature, faithful Orthodox Christians - our future leaders and torchbearers of the faith.

The camping ministry of our Church is an essential expression of who we are as Ukrainian Orthodox Christians. It reflects our commitment to fostering spiritual growth, cultural awareness, and a deep connection to our Holy Orthodox faith.

Through our investment in the lives of the youth of our parish families, we look confidently to the future. Together, we raise generations of faithful Orthodox Christians of Ukrainian heritage here in the United States of America.

At the heart of this ministry is the teaching of the Word of God, guiding our young people to live according to the precepts of the Gospel. **But the beauty of camping ministry extends beyond spiritual instruction.** It provides a vibrant, holistic experience of God's creation through a wide array of exciting and fun-filled activities - sports, arts and crafts, music, and exploration of the natural world, all within the sacred and serene environment of **All Saints Camp in Emlenton, Pennsylvania.**

This ministry also embraces children with disabilities, offering them a loving and inclusive camp experience. From the youngest members of our communities in the **Mommy and Me/Daddy and Me programs** to our high school graduates preparing for college, there is a place for everyone within the camping ministry. Moreover, for our older youth, opportunities abound for volunteering and deeper involvement in the life of the Church.

The summer camping programs, including **St. Nicholas Program** for children with disabilities, **Church School Camp**, **Teenage Conference**, and the cherished **Family Fest**, provide unparalleled opportunities for spiritual growth, cultural enrichment, and joyful fellowship. These programs inspire our youth to embrace their faith, learn their heritage, and foster lifelong friendships in Christ's name.

Together with His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, I encourage all parents and youth to embrace this ministry as an opportunity for adventure, service, and transformation.

Whether you are participating as a camper, volunteering as a staff member, or supporting these efforts as a parent, you are part of the sacred work of sharing the Good News of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This year, I invite all of you to reach out to the **Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry**, under the leadership of Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon, and to **All Saints Camp**, led by Camp Manager and Administrator Joshua Oryhon, to learn more about the enriching programs offered this summer. Let us ensure that no child or family misses the chance to experience the spiritual and cultural treasures that our camping ministry provides.

As we prepare for the 2025 camping season, I offer my heartfelt prayers and blessings:

May the Lord bless our beloved youth, guiding them to grow in faith, wisdom, and love. May He grant strength and inspiration to parents and volunteers as they nurture the next generation in the Orthodox faith. And may our All Saints Camp continue to be a beacon of hope, faith, and joy for all who enter its sacred grounds.

With love in Christ,

+Daniel

Archbishop and President of Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Defending Religious Freedom: Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA Participates in the Fifth Annual International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington, DC



With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, and under the leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, President of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (UOC of the USA), the Church once again stood as a global witness to the necessity of religious liberty by participating in the Fifth Annual International Religious Freedom (IRF)

Summit in Washington, D.C. Accompanied by Very Rev. Fr. Vasyl Pasakas, Archbishop Daniel represented the UOC of the USA at this significant gathering, engaging with religious and civic leaders from around the world to advocate for the protection of faith communities suffering persecution.

Religious freedom is not merely an abstract legal concept - it is the foundation of human dignity and a prerequisite for a just and moral society. For the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the defense of religious liberty is deeply personal, especially in light of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The Russian Federation's unprovoked aggression has led to immense suffering, including the persecution of religious communities, the destruction of sacred sites, and the silencing of faith-based voices advocating for peace and justice.

Archbishop Daniel, emphasized this reality: *"Religious freedom is not just a privilege but a God-given right. When this right is violated - whether in Ukraine, Syria, China, or anywhere in*

the world - it is not only an attack on faith but on human dignity itself. The Church must always stand as a guardian of this sacred right."

The IRF Summit provided an opportunity for religious and political leaders to reaffirm their commitment to protecting faith communities worldwide. U.S. Vice President JD Vance addressed the gathering, stating:

"Our administration believes that we must stand for religious freedom, not just as a legal principle, as important as that is, but as a lived reality both within our own borders and especially outside of them."

This statement reaffirmed the United States' role as a defender of religious liberty and highlighted the necessity of global cooperation to confront religious oppression.

Archbishop Daniel and Fr. Vasyl Pasakas engaged in meaningful dialogue with various religious leaders, including His Holiness Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II, Syriac Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, and Archbishop Dionysius John Kawak. These interactions strengthened bonds of solidarity among Christian communities facing challenges in different regions of the world.



One of the most powerful moments of the summit was the testimony of Oleksandra Matviichuk, Nobel Laureate and Chairwoman of the Center for Civil Liberties, who exposed the deceptive narratives pushed by Russia:

"Russia seeks to portray itself as a modern place... but Russian propaganda skillfully twists the truth... People abroad have lost their ability to distinguish between the lie and the truth."

Her words resonated deeply, especially as Russian forces continue to violate fundamental human rights, including religious freedom, in occupied territories.

Alongside Archbishop Daniel, members of the Ukrainian Parliament and religious leaders from various Christian communities in Ukraine attended the summit, advocating for greater international intervention to prevent further violations against Ukraine's faithful.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA has long recognized the critical role that faith plays in social and moral life. Archbishop Daniel spoke about the deep spiritual foundations that guide believers in upholding justice:

"Religion is the soul of a nation. When a society protects the freedom of faith, it upholds the values of truth, compassion, and moral responsibility. However, when religious freedom is threatened, it is a warning sign that all human rights are in jeopardy."

He further reflected on the role of the UOC of the USA in supporting Ukraine's struggle for freedom: *"We, as Ukrainian Orthodox Christians in the diaspora, have a sacred duty to be the voice for those who are oppressed, to provide humanitarian aid to those in need, and to offer our unceasing prayers for peace and justice in Ukraine."*

The message of the IRF Summit was clear - defending religious freedom requires global cooperation, truth-telling, and bold advocacy. Faith leaders, policymakers, and human rights defenders must continue to stand together to challenge authoritarian tactics that seek to suppress religious communities.

As Archbishop Daniel concluded: *"Our faith calls us to stand for righteousness. Defending religious liberty is not simply an obligation of law; it is an obligation of conscience. When we defend the rights of the faithful, we defend the very essence of human dignity."*

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA remains steadfast in its commitment to this sacred mission, praying for a future where every person can freely live out their faith without fear of persecution. Through continued advocacy and international cooperation, the voices of the oppressed will not be silenced, and the light of faith will continue to shine brightly in the darkness.

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



The next Sunday is called Meatfare Sunday since it is officially the last day before Pascha 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.