



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.

## CONTACT

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Lydia Rudolf

## MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> 2025

### **Sunday, March 2** **CHEESFARE**

Epistle Reading: Rom 13:11-14:4

Gospel Reading: Matt 6:14-21

**Divine Liturgy – 9:30**

### **Monday, March 3**

**The Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete**  
**6:30 pm**

### **Tuesday, March 4**

**The Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete**  
**6:30 pm**

**Wednesday, March 5**  
**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**  
**6:30 pm**

**SUNDAY, March 9**  
**Sunday of Orthodoxy.**  
Epistle Reading: Heb 11:24-26,32-12:2,  
Gospel Reading: Jn 1:43-51  
**Divine Liturgy–9:30**

**Wednesday, March 12**  
**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**  
**6:30 pm**

**Sunday, March 16**  
**GREGORY PALAMAS,**  
Epistle Reading: Heb 1:10-2:3;  
Gospel Reading: Mark 2: 1-12.  
**Divine Liturgy – 9:30**

# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

SUNDAY, MARCH 2  
CHEESEFARE SUNDAY (FORGIVENESS SUNDAY)  
THE EXPULSION OF ADAM FROM PARADISE

## The Divine Lityrgy Hymns and Readings

### Tone 3 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

### Tone 6 Kontakion (*from the Lenten Triodion*)

O Master, Teacher of wisdom, Bestower of virtue, Who teach the thoughtless and protect the poor, strengthen and enlighten my heart! O Word of the Father, let me not restrain my mouth from crying to You: "Have mercy on me, a transgressor, // O merciful Lord!"

### Tone 8 Prokeimenon

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (*Ps. 75:10a*)

V. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. (*Ps. 75:1*)

## The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4



Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

## The Gospel According to Matthew 6:14-21



The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

### Tone 6

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High. (Ps. 91:1)*

*V. To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night. (Ps. 91:2a)*

### Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### 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

We express our gratitude to Adriane Hassler and Lydia Rudolf who made Board Game Night at Ss Peter and Paul Christian Fellowship a great evening of fun and fellowship. Your enthusiasm, games, and warm hospitality created cherished memories for those who were there. We all are looking forward to more gatherings together!

On Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, following the Divine Liturgy Join us in commemorating the Feast of Orthodoxy which is dedicated to the ultimate triumph of the veneration of icons at the council in 843. We will gather for a procession with icons, a cherished tradition of our Holy Orthodox Church. Please, bring your own icon of your patron Saint or your favorite Icon to participate in this meaningful event. Let us come together in unity as we honor our faith and celebrate the Victory of Orthodoxy.

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.

Dear brothers and sister, please remember that **on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Great Lent begins**. The season of Great Lent is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. It is the living symbol of man's entire life which is to be fulfilled in his own resurrection from the dead with Christ. It is a time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors. It is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God's mercy. We mortify our flesh, but we do so in the joy of our resurrection into life everlasting. We make ready for the resurrection during Great Lent, both Christ's Resurrection and our own.

As Great Lent begins, we will have more Services than usual, especially during weekdays of Great Lent. These Services are founded by our Holy Orthodox Church for the benefit of faithful Christian to help in their spiritual life in uniting with God and understanding our dependence on Him! That's why it is important to come and participate in these services to understand more deeply the meaning of Great Lent, the meaning of our Life, and come closer to our main goal in life - the Kingdom of God!

## **Western PA/OH Lenten Retreat – March 15, 2025, 9:30-3:30.**

Annual **Western PA/OH Lenten Retreat** at the **River Valley Complex** in Pulaski, PA. This year's theme, "**The Language of Orthodoxy**", invites us to experience Great Lent through the wisdom of the Prophets and Saints, embracing Christ's call by deepening our understanding of Orthodox spirituality. 📍 **Location:** River Valley Complex, 320 Shenango St, Pulaski, PA 14143 📞 **Contact:** (724) 652-6184 ⓘ **Registration Opens:** February 3, 2025 🔗 **Register Online:** [www.uolofusa.org](http://www.uolofusa.org) or by paper. We encourage all to attend this enriching retreat as we prepare our hearts for Pascha!

### **Bake Sale**

We are excited to announce our annual Pascha-Easter Bake Sale, scheduled for baking on **March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**, with sales continuing on **March 26<sup>th</sup>**. 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 March 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 **Jeff Heiger (March 1<sup>st</sup>)**, **Frank Hawryliak Junior (March 7<sup>th</sup>)**, **John McCarthy (March 23<sup>rd</sup>)**, **Lydia Rudolf (March 28<sup>th</sup>)**, **Rose Raith (March 31<sup>st</sup>)** Happy Birthday! May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

## Archpastoral Letter of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora for the Beginning of the Great and Holy Lent



*To the beloved clergy, monastics, and faithful children of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora:*

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

As we stand at the threshold of the Great and Holy Lent, we embark together on a sacred journey - a journey that leads us through the desert of repentance and spiritual struggle to the radiant dawn of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is not merely an individual endeavor but a collective pilgrimage of the entire Mystical Body of Christ - the Holy Church, through which we are called to renewal, purification, and transfiguration in the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Lent is a time of return - a return to God, to our true selves, and to the divine purpose for which we were created. The Church Fathers, including the great ascetics St. John Climacus, St. Clement of Alexandria, and St. Mary of Egypt, teach us that spiritual perfection is not attained in a single moment but is the fruit of daily striving, step by step, uprooting sin and planting virtue, cleansing the soul and cultivating holiness.

The Lenten struggle is a call for each of us to examine our hearts, recognizing our shortcomings and sins, and to embrace the transforming grace of repentance. Yet, this journey is not undertaken in isolation. As members of one Body in Christ, our personal renewal must also extend to our parishes, our communities, and the entire Church. Just as we as individuals seek purification, so too must our parish communities undergo a renewal of faith and love, casting aside complacency, divisions, and distractions that hinder our collective growth in Christ.

Brothers and sisters, this holy season is given to us as a time to reconfigure our lives, personally and communally. The Church herself must examine how we fulfill our mission in the world, how we live out the Gospel, how we serve one another and those in need. Just as Christ calls each of us to spiritual victory, He also calls His Church to renewed strength and vigor for the glory of His Name.

And so, beloved children in the Lord, let us enter this Holy Lent with hearts open to surrendering ourselves to the presence of God. When we surrender - when we allow Him to enter and transform our lives - then, step by step, we begin anew. Our burdens are lifted, our wounds are healed, and we are led through Gethsemane and Golgotha into the light of the Resurrection.

May this sacred season be for all of us a time of deep repentance, renewal, and transfiguration, so that when we stand before the empty tomb on Pascha night, we may proclaim with pure hearts and radiant souls: "Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!"

*With archpastoral love in Christ, **Metropolitan Antony** Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora, **Archbishop Jeremiah**, Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America **Archbishop Daniel**, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora*

## **Encyclical of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for Holy and Great Lent 2025**



Most honorable brother Hierarchs and blessed children in the Lord,

Once again, with the will and grace of God the giver of all good things, we are entering Holy and Great Lent, the blessed period of fasting and repentance, of spiritual vigilance and journey with the Lord, as He comes to His voluntary passion, in order to reach the veneration of His splendid Resurrection and become worthy of our own passage from earthly things to "that which no eyes have seen and no ears have heard and no human heart has ascended" (1 Cor. 2.9).

In the early Church, Holy and Great Lent was a period of preparation of catechumens, whose baptism took place during the Divine Liturgy of the Paschal Feast. This connection with baptism is also preserved by the comprehension and experience of Great Lent as the period par excellence of repentance that is described as "a renewal of baptism," "a second baptism," "a contract with God for a second life," in other words a regeneration of the gifts of baptism and promise to God for the beginning of a new way of life. The services and hymns of this season associate the spiritual struggle of the faithful with the expectation of the Lord's Pascha, whereby the forty-day fast radiates the fragrance of the paschal joy.

Holy and Great Lent is an opportunity to become conscious of the depth and wealth of our faith as "a personal encounter with Christ." It is rightly emphasized that Christianity is "extremely personal," without this implying that it is "individualistic." The faithful "encounter, recognize, and love one and the same Christ," who, "alone and only, revealed the true and perfect human person" (Nicholas Cabasilas). He invites all people—and each person individually—to salvation, so that

the response of each may always be "grounded in the common faith" and "at the same time be unique."

We recall the words of St. Paul that "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me?" and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2.20). In this case, the words "in me," "me," and "for me" do not contradict the words "in us," "us," and "for us" with reference to our "common salvation." Ever grateful for the heavenly gifts of his regeneration in Christ, the Apostle of freedom "makes what is shared his own," as if the pre-eternal Word of God became incarnate, was crucified, and was resurrected "for him personally."

Our experience of faith is "unique" and "profoundly personal" as a freedom given to us by Christ, as something that is at the same time "essentially ecclesiastical," an experience "of common freedom." This most genuine freedom in Christ is expressed as love and applied support to our concrete neighbor, as this is described in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.30–37) and in the passage about the Last Judgment (Mt. 25.31–46), but also as respect and concern for the world and the eucharistic approach to creation. Freedom in Christ has a personal and holistic nature, which is especially revealed during Holy and Great Lent in its understanding of asceticism and fasting. Christian freedom, as existential authenticity and fullness, does not involve a gloomy asceticism, a life without grace and joy, "as if Christ never came." Moreover, fasting is not only "abstinence from food," but "renunciation of sin," a struggle against egotism, a loving departure from the self to the brother in need, "a heart that burns for the sake of all creation." The holistic nature of spirituality is sustained by the experience of Great Lent as a journey towards Pascha and as a foretaste of "the glorious freedom of God's children" (Rom. 8.21).

We pray that our Savior Jesus Christ may render all of us worthy of walking the way of Holy and Great Lent with asceticism, repentance, forgiveness, prayer, and godly freedom. And we conclude with the words of our spiritual father, the late Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon, during the Divine Liturgy of Cheesefare Sunday in 1970 at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Athens: "As we enter Holy Lent, what awaits us at the end is vision, miracle, and the experience of the Resurrection, the foremost experience of the Orthodox Church. Let us proceed toward this vision and experience but not without having received and offered forgiveness, not with a fast purely from meat and oil, not with a sense of hypocrisy, but with divine freedom, in spirit and truth, in the spirit of truth, in the truth of the spirit."

Holy and Great Lent 2025

✙ BARTHOLOMEW of Constantinople