



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

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ЦЕРКВА СВ. ПЕТРА І ПАВЛА

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*Dear Brothers and Sisters, with hearts full of joy and thanksgiving, we greet you with the radiant light of the Feast of Feasts—Holy Pascha! Today, we celebrate the victory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ over death, and the gift of eternal life offered to all who believe in Him. The tomb is empty, death is defeated, and love has triumphed!*

*May the light of the Resurrection shine brightly in your hearts and homes. Let this holy season renew our faith, strengthen our hope, and deepen our love for God and one another. As we proclaim together the ancient and ever-new greeting, "**Christ is Risen!**", let it echo not only from our lips but from our very lives.*

*Wishing you and your loved ones a most blessed and joyful Pascha!*

**MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**2025**

**SUNDAY, May 4**

**MYRH-BEARING WOMEN**

Epistle Reading: Acts 6:1-7;  
Gospel Reading: Mk 15:43-16:8  
**Divine Liturgy – 9:30**

**Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Great Vespers – 6:30 pm

**SUNDAY, May 11**

**PARALYTIC**

Epistle Reading: 9:32-42;  
Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15  
**Divine Liturgy – 9:30**

**Sunday, May 18**

**Samaritan Woman**

Epistle Reading: Acts 11:19-26,29-30;  
Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42  
**Divine Liturgy – 9:30**

## CONTACT

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# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

## MYRH-BEARING WOMEN

### The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8



In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

### The Gospel According to John 1:1-17



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And

from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the citizens and residents of Ukraine, Sherry, Halyna, Patricia Prokopchak, Patricia Hnatko, Maria Corbin, 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. Yuri, Maria, Fr. Jakiw, Fr. George, Volodymyr, Alexandr, Vincent, John, Frank, Rowena,

### PARISH NEWS AND UPDATES

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** – We are going to have **Potluck** to benefit Ss. Peter and Paul.

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** – Ss. Peter and Paul Fellowship meeting at 6 pm.

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** – coffee hour organized by Karen Sheptak.

### **Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women – A Greeting to All Women**

On this special Sunday, we honor the holy Myrrh-Bearing Women who were the first to receive the joyous news of Christ's Resurrection. Today, we also give thanks for all the faithful women in our parish who, through their love, service, and quiet strength, continue to bear witness to Christ in our midst. May God bless each of you abundantly for your dedication, prayers, and example of faith. You are truly a blessing to our Church family!

### **Thank You to Our Pirohi Worjers**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped with our Pirohi sales this season - our cooks, packers, runners, cleaners, and everyone who gave of their time and energy each week. Your hard work and joyful service are deeply appreciated! Please note that our last Pirohi sale for the season was this past Friday. We will resume sales again in the fall. May God bless you for all you've done to support our parish through this important ministry!

### **Camping Program**

As we look ahead to the summer months, we offer a reminder about the upcoming camping programs available at All Saint's Camp this summer. All the necessary information and applications for campers and staff can be found online at [www.uocyouth.org](http://www.uocyouth.org). Let us join together in continuing to support the Ministry of All Saints Camp!

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.

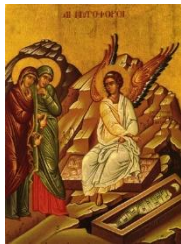
## PARISH CELEBRATION AND REMEMBRANCE

From the bottom of Ss. Peter and Paul parish family heart we **Caden Hassler (May 10), Ted Diakiw (May 10), Hanna Kukharchyshyn (May 16th), Arianna Speer (May 21), Debbie and Larry Cygan (May 23)**. Happy Birthday! May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

Happy Anniversary to **Rose and Ron Frenchak (May 6), Antoinette and Wayne Kennedy (May 10)**. May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day and for the Future years ahead for many happy and blessed years!

Memory Eternal, **Metropolitan Constantine (May 21st), Hope Burka ( May 25th)**. May their souls dwell with the righteous, and may their memory be eternal in the hearts of their loved ones and the Church. **Vichnaya Pamyat!**

## 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 annoint 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).

### **Sunday of the Paralytic**



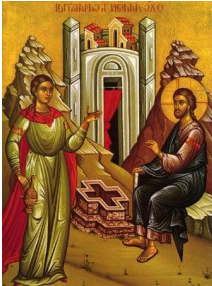
Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had round about it five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof there lay very many sick people with various maladies, awaiting the moving of the water. The first to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.

It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel was lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." And straightaway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

### Third Tone

I am grievously paralyzed in a multitude of sins and wrongful deeds. As You raised up the paralytic of old, also raise up my soul by Your divine guidance, that I may cry out, "Glory to Your Power O Compassionate Christ."

### Sunday of the Samaritan Woman



One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, also called Sikima, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Jesus of Navi. Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well. Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and at present Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Jesus of Navi (Joshua) addressed the tribes of Israel for the last time. Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make Roboam (Rehoboam) king.

When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to this city, which is also called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat, and He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman mentioned in today's Gospel passage came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed.

Concerning the Samaritans we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all, as the Samaritan woman observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations. After the Ascension of the Lord, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy



Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photine, and her feast is kept on February 26.

### **Kontakion of Sun. of the Samaritan Woman, Plagal of the Fourth Tone**

The Samaritan Woman, having come to the well in faith, beheld You, the Water of Wisdom from which she drank plentifully and inherited the Heavenly Kingdom as one who is blessed forever.

### **UOC of the USA Shares the Light of Pascha with the Defenders of Ukraine**



As the bells of Holy Pascha rang across the world, proclaiming the radiant joy of Christ's Resurrection from the dead and the triumph of life over death, the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America turned their hearts not only to their own altars and parishes but also – especially - to those who could not be present at the Paschal celebrations: the brave men and women of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, defending the dignity, sovereignty, and sacred soil of Ukraine.

While families gathered around festal tables and churches resounded with the victorious hymn “*Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death...*”, many of our brothers and sisters stood watch in trenches, forests, and front-line zones, their only celebration being the quiet hope in their hearts and the strength of their faith.

Moved by this powerful reality, the UOC of the USA - under the archpastoral leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel, with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Prime Hierarch of the UOC of the USA, and in close cooperation with Archbishop Mytrofan of Kharkiv and Bohodukhiv of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, who himself serves as an active military chaplain - organized and delivered hundreds of Paschal Baskets to the defenders of Ukraine. These sacred baskets, lovingly prepared and prayerfully blessed, were transported to military installations, checkpoints, and remote front-line regions across Ukraine.

“Pascha is the victory of Divine Light over darkness. It is the Feast of Feasts - when the tomb is empty and death is no longer the final word,” said Archbishop Daniel, reflecting on the mission. “For those who stand against evil and defend the sanctity of human life, the light of Christ’s Resurrection shines ever more powerfully. We must bring that light to them, just as they bring hope and protection to us.”

Thanks to the efforts of chaplains of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine - many of whom serve directly in the trenches alongside the soldiers—these baskets were distributed with prayers, words of encouragement, and the blessing of Metropolitan Epiphaniy, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Among the devoted chaplains, the Church expresses profound gratitude to Archbishop

Mytrofan, whose unceasing ministry brings comfort and strength to the soldiers, and to Deacon Andrii of the Kyiv Metropolia of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, who labors daily to care for the spiritual and physical needs of the men and women in uniform.

“A Paschal basket may seem simple,” remarked Archbishop Mytrofan, “but for a soldier far from home, it is a sacred reminder that they are not forgotten. That their sacrifice is honored. That the Church walks with them - even through the valley of the shadow of death.”

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA has, since the beginning of the war, stood firmly with the people of Ukraine - not only in word, but in action: through ongoing humanitarian aid, medical assistance, support for refugees and orphans, and direct aid to hospitals and volunteer networks. This Paschal outreach is yet another testament to the Church’s living Gospel witness.

“This war is not just about land,” added Archbishop Daniel. “It is about the spiritual battle between truth and falsehood, life and death, dignity and tyranny. And while political leaders may be silent, and even some religious leaders in Moscow bless the machinery of death - we, the Church of Christ, must stand with the innocent, the suffering, and the brave defenders of peace and justice. This is what it means to proclaim Christ’s Resurrection in the world today.”



As we celebrate the empty tomb, we also embrace the suffering crosses of our fellow brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Their courage mirrors the sacrificial love of Christ. Their steadfastness reflects the hope of the Resurrection.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA calls upon all faithful, all parishes, and all people of good will to continue supporting its charitable ministry - so that even in war, the light of Pascha may not be extinguished.

Let us, with one voice and one heart, echo the cry of the Resurrection across the front lines, into every trench and hidden post: “Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!”

For contributions to the ongoing humanitarian efforts, please visit [www.uocofusa.org](http://www.uocofusa.org) or follow [this link](#). Every prayer, every donation, every act of love helps us bring Resurrection joy to those who most need it.