



SS. PETER & PAUL UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH

21 Evergreen Road
Lyndora, PA 16045-1314



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА
ЦЕРКВА СВ. ПЕТРА І ПАВЛА

Tel. (724) 287-4448 Fax (724) 287-4448
E-mail: fryuriibobko@gmail.com

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

Father Yurii Bobko, Pastor

Cell phone: 908-458-2076

Tel: 724-287-4448 (Church)

Tel: 724-282-6190 (Hall)

<http://www.orthodoxlyndora.org/>

Parish Board President:

Lydia Rudolf

Choir Director:

Lydia Rudolf

NOVEMBER 16TH 2025

Sunday, November 16

Evangelist Matthew

Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 4:9-16

Gospel Reading: Matt 9:9-13

Divine Liturgy – 9:30

Sunday, November 23

Entry BVM in Temple

Epistle Reading: Eph 2:14-22, Heb 9:1-7

Gospel Reading: 12:16-2; Lk 10:38-42;

11:27-28

Divine Liturgy – 9:30

Saturday, November 29th

Akathist to the Mother of God Icon

"Pantanassa" (Queen Of All)

6:30 pm

Sunday, November 30

Apostle Andrew the first called

Epistle Reading: Eph 4:1-6

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:10-17

Divine Liturgy – 9:30

Sunday, December 7

Martyrs Onesiphorus & Porphyrius

Epistle Reading: Gal 6:11-18

Gospel Reading: Luke 8:41-56

Divine Liturgy – 9:30

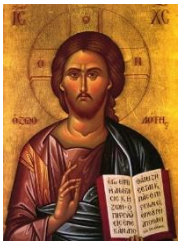
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PARISH

The reading is from the St. Paul's First Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10



Brethren, ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The Gospel According to Luke 10:25-37



²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading *of it*?” ²⁷ So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

²⁸ And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.” ²⁹ But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, [ε]when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

³⁷ And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

November 16th – Coffee Hour organized by Karen Sheptak.

A Thanksgiving Greeting to Our Beloved Parish Family



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter this season of gratitude, I thank God for each of you and for the love, faith, and unity we share as a parish family. Thanksgiving reminds us not only to count our blessings, but also to recognize the Giver of every good gift.

In the midst of daily challenges, the Lord continues to surround us with His mercy, His guidance, and His presence. May this season open our hearts to deeper gratitude, stronger faith, and renewed compassion for one another.

Let us remember those who are struggling, lonely, or in need—and let our thankfulness become an act of love through prayer, kindness, and generosity. May God fill your homes with peace, your tables with abundance, and your hearts with hope.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving!

Holodomor Remembrance & Thanksgiving Food Drive



During November, our Ukrainian Orthodox Church joins parishes across the country in remembering the millions of innocent men, women, and children who perished in the Holodomor of 1932–1933. In honor of their memory—and in gratitude for our own blessings—we commit ourselves to helping those who are hungry today.

Each donated item will carry a memorial label: “In 1932–1933, 10 million Ukrainians perished in a man-made famine – the Holodomor. We pray no one ever goes hungry again.”

Beginning **now** through **Sunday, December 7th**, we will collect **non-perishable food items and monetary donations** for our local food bank and for families in need. Each donation becomes both an act of remembrance and an act of Christian love.

As we give thanks this month, let us honor the past by serving the present—so that, in the spirit of Christ’s command to feed the hungry, no one in our community is left without hope or care.

Thank You Note

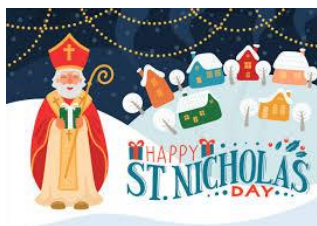
It was a true blessing to welcome the OCF students to our church, share fellowship over a wonderful potluck meal, and hear the inspiring presentation by artist and art therapist **Tetiana Mialkovska** about her “Warm Hands” program supporting youth and veterans in Ukraine.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who helped make today’s gathering such a warm and meaningful event. A special and heartfelt thank you goes to **Karen Sheptak**, whose dedication, organization, and tireless preparation made this entire event possible. Your effort and generosity created a space where our community could come together, learn, and offer genuine hospitality to our guests. We are truly grateful for all you do.

Nativity Decorations – November 30th

We warmly invite everyone to join us in preparing our Holy Temple for the Nativity season! On **Sunday, November 30th**, following the Divine Liturgy, we will decorate the church with beautiful Christmas trees and ornaments. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a parish family and prepare our sacred space for the joyous celebration of Christ’s birth. We look forward to seeing you there!

St. Nicholas Celebration – Sunday, December 7th



Dear Parish Family,

We are delighted to announce that **on Sunday, December 7th, following the Divine Liturgy**, our parish will celebrate our annual **St. Nicholas Program and Potluck!**

We warmly invite **everyone** to join us for this joyful gathering. **St. Nicholas himself will visit our parish**, meet the children, and share in the celebration. Parents are asked to **prepare a small gift for each child (up to \$20)** for St. Nicholas to present. We will also sing **Christmas carols**, enjoy a festive potluck meal, and spend time together in fellowship as we prepare our hearts for the Nativity season. A **charity basket** will be available for donations to support a local family or children in need, honoring the true spirit of St. Nicholas.

Let us come together in joy, gratitude, and community as we celebrate the wonder-working Saint Nicholas and prepare for the coming Feast of the Nativity.
All are warmly welcome—bring your family, bring your friends!

The Nativity Fast Has Begun

Let us remember that the Nativity Fast begins on **November 15th**. This sacred season invites us to devote ourselves to prayer, fasting, the Sacrament of Holy Confession, and acts of charity as we prepare our hearts for the joyous celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We encourage everyone to make use of this time for spiritual enrichment and to deepen their relationship with Christ. We ask that all parishioners come for Holy Confession by Sunday, **December 21st**, to receive the grace of this sacrament before the Nativity. Let us also participate in the other practices our Holy Church offers to make this time one of spiritual and physical preparation, drawing us closer to the true meaning of Nativity (Christmas). Together, let us strive to make this season a time of transformation and joy as we await the birth of our Savior.

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. ***Our next Pirohi sale will be on Friday, November 21st.*** We look forward to seeing everyone back in the kitchen as we continue this beloved tradition!

Invitation to Join Our Ss. Peter and Paul Christian Fellowship

Since the establishment of our new **Ss. Peter and Paul Christian Fellowship**, we have already accomplished so much together—organizing parish events, supporting those in need, and strengthening our sense of family in Christ. These efforts reflect our shared commitment to serving others and glorifying God in all we do.

We warmly invite **everyone** to become involved in this growing ministry. Whether through helping at events, offering ideas, or simply lending a hand when able, your participation enriches our parish life and strengthens our mission.

Come join us as we work together to serve our neighbors and build up our parish community for the greater glory of God!

ARCHPASTORAL LETTER of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora For the Nativity Fast

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!



As the quiet beauty of the Nativity Fast embraces us, the Church invites us once again to walk the sacred road from Bethlehem to Golgotha, from the humility of the Manger to the sacrifice of the Cross. It is a journey that reveals the very heart of God - a heart so full of love that it stoops down to dwell among us, to share our suffering, and to redeem our broken humanity.

In a world intoxicated by pride, power, and self-importance, the Son of God chooses to enter history not in a palace but in a cave, not on a throne but in a manger. The Almighty Creator becomes a Child - poor, vulnerable, and wrapped in the swaddling clothes of simplicity. This divine condescension is not a mere gesture of compassion - it is the very revelation of who God is: “God is love” (1 John 4:8) - love that humbles itself, love that serves, love that gives all.

The Nativity is not a sentimental story of shepherds and stars; it is the unfolding of God’s eternal plan of salvation. The humility of Bethlehem points directly to the humility of Golgotha - where the Child born in a manger will stretch out His arms on the Cross to embrace all of creation.

The Incarnation and the Cross are not separate mysteries but one continuous act of divine love.

When we gaze upon the Infant Christ, we see not only the sweetness of His humanity but also the shadow of the Cross. In the cave of Bethlehem already rests the wood that will one day bear His Body. In His small hands is already the power that will bless, heal, and forgive. And in the tears of the Virgin Mother is already the quiet prophecy of the sorrow she will bear at the foot of the Cross.

The humility of God is not weakness - it is divine strength that transforms suffering into resurrection. Thus, to fast during this season is to walk with the Lord in His humility - to lay down our pride, our selfish desires, and our indifference to others, so that Christ may be born in us anew.

The world teaches us that greatness is found in domination, success, and acclaim. But the Gospel proclaims a different truth: “Whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:4).

To be humble is not to think less of ourselves, but to think less *about ourselves* and more about God and our neighbor. It is to see every person - especially the poor, the suffering, the displaced, and the forgotten - as icons of Christ Himself.

During this Fast, let our prayer and fasting become instruments of compassion. Let us give from our abundance to those who hunger, clothe those who shiver in the cold, and comfort those who mourn - especially our brothers and sisters in Ukraine who continue to endure the agony of war, displacement, and destruction. Their tears, their faith, and their endurance are the modern echo of Bethlehem's holy poverty and Golgotha's redemptive pain.

We see Christ crucified again in the bombed hospitals, the destroyed homes, the wounded soldiers, and the weeping mothers. Yet we also see the resurrected power of His love in the countless acts of courage, mercy, and faith that spring forth from the Ukrainian people - priests and chaplains who pray in the trenches, children who sing carols in basements, families who share bread with strangers.

Beloved in Christ, our journey from the Manger to the Cross must be active, spontaneous, and actionable.

Fasting is not merely abstaining from food - it is *feasting on mercy*. It is not a passive waiting but a living response to God's love. Every moment of the Fast offers us the opportunity to act - to forgive someone we have avoided, to visit the sick, to reconcile a broken relationship, to serve a meal to the hungry, to support a family in need, to reach out to the lonely.

Let us remember that a fast without love is only hunger. But a fast filled with charity, prayer, and humility becomes a ladder that reaches Heaven. As the Apostle James reminds us: "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). Therefore, let our fasting be faith made visible - faith that gives, heals, and builds up the Body of Christ.

We encourage every parish and faithful of our Church to make this season a time of compassionate action:

- Collect food, clothing, and medical supplies for the suffering in Ukraine and your local communities.
- Support your parish outreach and the humanitarian ministries of the UOC of the USA.
- Visit the lonely, comfort the grieving, and pray for peace - not only with words but through deeds of mercy.

As the Body of Christ, our Holy Church is called to embody His humility. When we serve without seeking recognition, when we forgive without resentment, when we love without condition - then the world beholds the living Christ.

In the faces of chaplains comforting soldiers, of clergy feeding refugees, of children collecting gifts for the needy - we see the continuation of the Bethlehem miracle in our own time.

Our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, through its parishes, seminary, charitable organizations and ministries, and faithful, continues to be a living witness of God's humility - responding to suffering with compassion, to evil with goodness, and to despair with faith.

Every act of kindness - whether offered to a child in Ukraine, a neighbor in need, or a stranger on the street - becomes a candle in the darkness, a testimony that Christ is born, and the world is not abandoned.

Beloved in the Lord, the Apostle Paul reminds us: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus - Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant” (Philippians 2:5–7).

To have the mind of Christ is to live with open hands and open hearts. It is to descend so that others may rise, to forgive so that peace may reign, to pray so that hope may be reborn. The more we humble ourselves, the more space there is for Christ to dwell within us.

The story that begins in the manger does not end at the cross - it leads to the empty tomb and the glory of resurrection. This is the mystery of divine humility: it does not diminish but exalts; it does not destroy but transforms. The road from Bethlehem to Golgotha is also the road to eternal life.

May this Nativity Fast be for all of us a season of rediscovery - of simplicity, of mercy, and of the quiet majesty of God’s humility. As we bow before the Child of Bethlehem, may our hearts whisper the words of the Theotokos: “Behold, the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

And as we continue to pray for peace and healing in Ukraine and throughout the world, may we live in such a way that others will see Christ in our eyes, hear His kindness in our words, and feel His mercy in our actions.

With Archpastoral Love and Blessing,

† Antony

Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora

† Jeremiah

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of South America

† Daniel

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Western Europe