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DO YOU
LOVE ME?

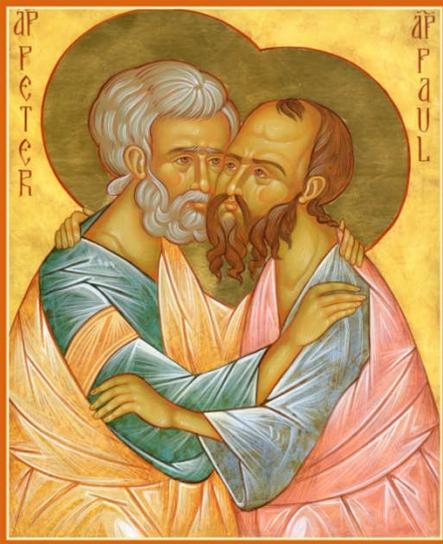
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St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

220 Mansfield Blvd. (mailing: PO Box 835), Carnegie, PA 15106

Rev. Fr. John Charest

847-910-7120 - frjohn.charest@aol.com

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President: Howard West 724-910-9627

www.orthodoxcarnegie.org

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SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM, TONE 4

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS

EXPULSION FROM PARADISE

ROM 13 : 11 – 14 : 4; MT 6 : 14 – 21

PARASTAS IN MEMORY OF MARY MAKITKA

MONDAY 2ND 6:30 PM GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE,
TUESDAY 3RD 6:30 PM GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE,
WEDNESDAY 4TH 6:30 PM GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE,
THURSDAY 5TH 6:30 PM GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE,
FRIDAY 6TH 6:30 PM PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY
SATURDAY 7TH 6:00 PM VESPERS

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM, TONE 5

SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY

HEB. 11:24-26, 32-12:2; JN. 1:43-51

LITANY FOR NICHOLAS & PEARL PREGNAR

TODAY'S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY

KRIS BURIANEK IN MEMORY OF JOHN STASKO SR. ON THE 90TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH. MEMORY ETERNAL

FAMILY OF EVA STASKO IN HONOR OF HER 89TH BIRTHDAY, MNOHAYA
LITA!

HOLOVATIUK & REITEROVYCH FAMILIES IN HONOR THEIR DAUGHTER,
WIFE, MOM, SISTER, AND SISTER-IN-LAW, IRYNA REITEROVYCH ON HER
BIRTHDAY. MNOHAYA LITA!

PEARL Z HOMYRDA FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF MY DEAR
SISTER BY HEART, CATHARINE LITVAK. MNOHAYA LITA!

BONNIE REINHART AND FAMILY IN MEMORY OF TERRY E REINHART ON
THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FALLING ASLEEP. MEMORY ETERNAL

**The Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin is published weekly by
The Senior Chapter of the Ukrainian Orthodox League**

Editor: Michael Kapeluck

Bulletin Submissions are due by 8:00 am Thursday morning. Written submissions can be:

-hand delivered to the editor

-placed in the Bulletin envelope in the church vestibule.

-mailed to: 300 East Main Street, Carnegie, PA 15106

-e-mailed to: kapeluck@verizon.net

We welcome you today

We would like to remind our visitors of the following;:

- ❖ All people are encouraged to participate in the sacred services of our Church. We hope that you will be able to worship as well as have fellowship with us. Should you wish any information about the Orthodox Faith or this parish in particular, please see the rector or any member of the church. We are able to place you on our mailing list.
- ❖ Only Orthodox Christians may receive the Eucharist (Holy Communion) in the Orthodox Church. In like manner, Orthodox Christians may not receive the sacraments in a non-Orthodox Church. While we hope that one day all Christians will find unity and be able to approach the chalice of our Lord together, we observe the teachings of the Church that the Eucharist is a gift of unity and not a means of unity.

We remind our faithful and visitors of the following guidelines concerning the Holy Sacraments in the Orthodox Church.

- ❖ Orthodox Christians are urged to receive Holy Communion frequently.
- ❖ Communicants should be at peace with others before approaching the chalice (Mt 5:23-24)
- ❖ Realize the importance of making a thorough examination of sins and transgressions against God, ourselves and others and having prayed for forgiveness before coming to Holy Communion.
- ❖ Frequent communicants should come to Holy Confession at least four times a year (during the four fasting periods of the year). and additionally when an examination of conscience reveals the necessity to do so in order to heal any sinful behavior.
- ❖ Communicants should fast from all foods and liquids from the evening before receiving Holy Communion.
- ❖ Communicants should read prayers in preparation for receiving Holy Communion.
- ❖ All Orthodox Christians must receive the sacraments at least once a year.
- ❖ Those who are late for Divine Liturgy (after the reading of the Epistle and Gospel) should not approach the chalice.
- ❖ Those who are ill or who have special physical needs are exempt from the above guidelines.
- ❖ Infants and children (up to the age of seven) who are Orthodox Christians may receive Holy Communion and are exempt from the above guidelines.

Thank you for gathering to worship with us today. Together we have glorified the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May we be brought closer to one another and closer to God by following the eternal teachings of our Lord.

Нагадуємо нашлім гостям., що:

ми заохочуємо всіх до участі у Священній Літургії в нашій Церкві; ми сподіваємося, що Ви зможете не лише помолитися тут, але й стати членом нашої громади. Якщо Ви хочете отримати якусь додаткову інформацію про Православну віру, чи, зокрема, про нашу парафію, звертайтеся, будь ласка, до отця настоятеля чи до будь-кого із членів нашої парафії. Ми можемо внести вашу адресу до парафіяльного списку розсилки;

лише православні християни можуть отримати Євхаристію (Святе Причастя) у православної церкви і, відповідно, православні християни не можуть отримувати святого причастя у неправославної церкві Плекаючи надію на те, що у майбутньому всі християни досягнуть єдності і зможуть разом пити із чаші нашого Господа, ми дотримуємося вчення церкви про те, що Євхаристія - це дар єдності, а не засіб до єдності.

НАГАДУЄМО НАШИМ ВІРНИМ І ГОСТЯМ ПРО ПРАВИЛА, ЩО СТОСУЮТЬСЯ СВЯТОГО ПРИЧАСТЯ У ПРАВОСЛАВНІЙ ЦЕРКВІ:

ми спонукаємо православних християн часто ходити до Святого Причастя;

ті, хто причащаються, повинні бути у мирі з іншими перш, нас підійти до євхаристичної чаші (Св.Матвій 5:23-24);

перед тим, як прийти на Святе Причастя, дуже важливо ретельно осмислити гріхи і порушення, які було вчинено проти Бога, нас самих та інших і помолитися за їх відпущення;

тим, хто часто причащається, слід приходити на святу сповідь принаймні чотири рази на рік (під час кожного із чотирьох щорічних постів);

ті, хто причащається, повинні з вечора перед прийняттям Святого Причастя, припинити вживання всякої їжі і напоїв;

ті, хто причащається, повинні шляхом молитов підготувати себе до прийняття причастя;

всі православні християни повинні, принаймні, раз на рік отримати Святе Причастя;

ті, хто спізнився на Божественну Літургію (пришов після того, як було прочитано Апостол і Євангеліє) не можуть підходити до чаші; **хворі**, і **ті**, хто має обмежені фізичні м'єисливості, звільняються від вище викладених вимог;

немовлята та діти до семи років, які належать до Православної християнської віри, можуть отримувати Святе Причастя і звільняються від вище викладених вимог;

Дякуємо за те, що Ви прийшли помолитися з нами сьогодні у церкві Ісуса Христа. Разом з вами ми віддали славу Єдиному Господу, Отцеві, і Синові, і Духові Святому. Нехай дотримання вічного вчення нашого Господа наблизить нас один до одного Богу

**CHGESFARE AND FORGIVENESS
SUNDAY
EXPULSION OF ADAM AND EVE
FROM PARADISE**

**TROPARION TO THE RESURRECTION
TONE 4**

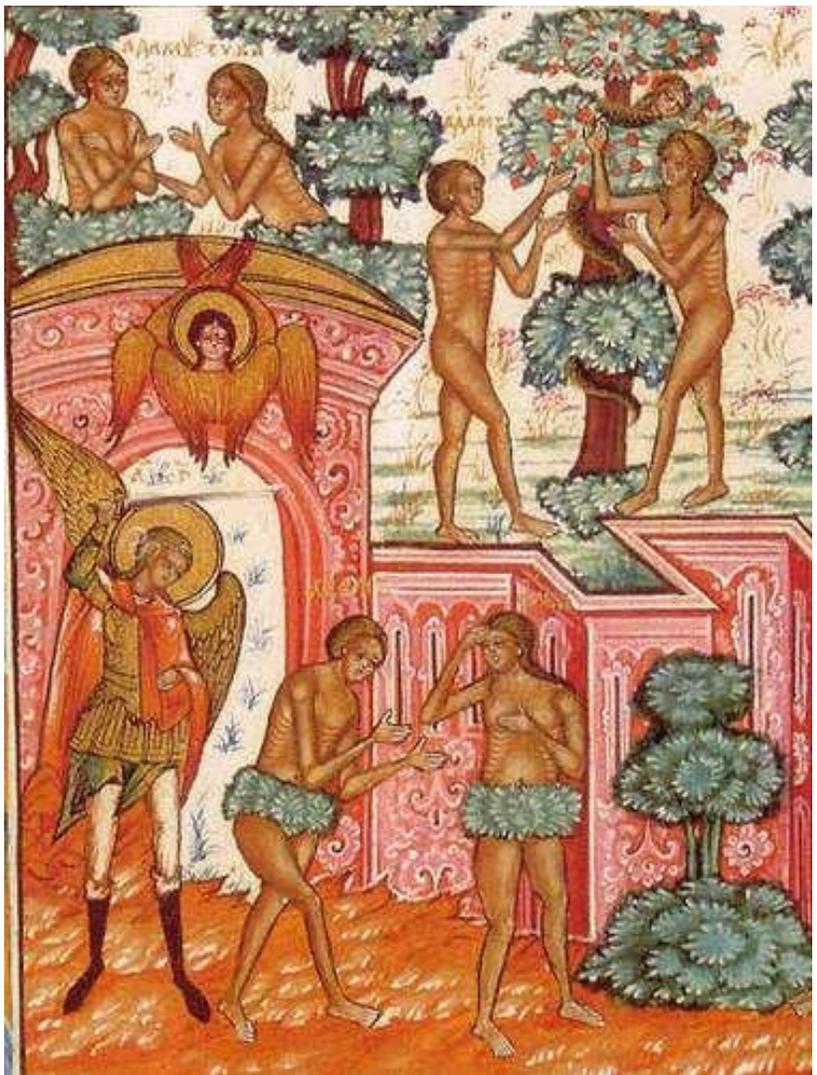
When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection; they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

KONTAKION - TONE 6

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

**KONTAKION TO THE RESURRECTION
TONE 4**

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, he has risen on the third day!



Prokimenon

So Great and glorious are Thy deeds, O Lord, for by Thy wisdom Thou has created all.
Verse: Bless the Lord. O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou art become exceedingly glorious.

Lesson from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Romans
(c. 13, v. 11-14; c. 14, v. 1-4)

Brethren, our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed in the Gospel. The night is nearly over, and the day is approaching. Therefore, let us abandon all the practices of benighted paganism and let us take up the weapons of enlightened Christianity.

Let us live decently as in the fulllight of the day. Turn away from revelry, drunkenness, lewdness, licentiousness, dissension, and rivalry. Put on the armor of our Lord Jesus Christ, and forget all about gratifying the passions of the flesh.

Welcome the man, who is weak in faith without arguing about his scruples. Some men believe in eating everything. Others, who are scrupulous, eat only vegetarian food.

The man, who eats meat, must not look down on the man, who abstains from it. Likewise, the man, who abstains from meat, must not criticize the man, who eats it. For God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? Whether he stands or falls, concerns only his ,master. To be sure, he will stand on his feet. For God is able to make him stand.

До римлян 13:11-14, 14:1-4

Виконуйте все це, бо ви знаєте, в який час ми живемо. Ви знаєте, що час прийшов вам прокинутися від сплячки, бо спасіння наше зараз ближче до нас, ніж тоді, коли ми вперше повірили. Ніч уже майже минула, і день наближається. Тож звільнімося від вчинків, що належать темряві. Зодягнімося у зброю світла. Живімо ж пристойно, як люди живуть при денному світлі: не в гульні та пияцтві, не в перелюбі й розпусті, не у сварках та заздрощах. Краще будьмо подібні до Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, і не потураймо нашому гріховному людському еству і його бажанням.

Щиро приймайте тих, чия віра слабка, та не задля суперечки про погляди ваші. Один вірить, що може їсти все, а інший, слабкий у вірі своїй, їсть лише овочі. Тому ж, хто споживає будь-яку їжу, не слід зверхньо ставитися до іншої людини, яка не їсть усього. І навпаки: той, хто не їсть деякі страви, нехай не осуджує першого, оскільки Бог прийняв його.

Чому ти осуджуєш чужого слугу? Лише в очах свого господаря слуга може бути виправданий або покараний. Слугу ж Господнього буде виправдано, бо Господь владу має виправдовувати.

The Gospel According to Saint Matthew

(с. 6, v. 14-21)

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

"Moreover when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. For they distort their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Verily I say to you, they have already 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 in secret. Then your Father who sees you in secret will reward you openly."

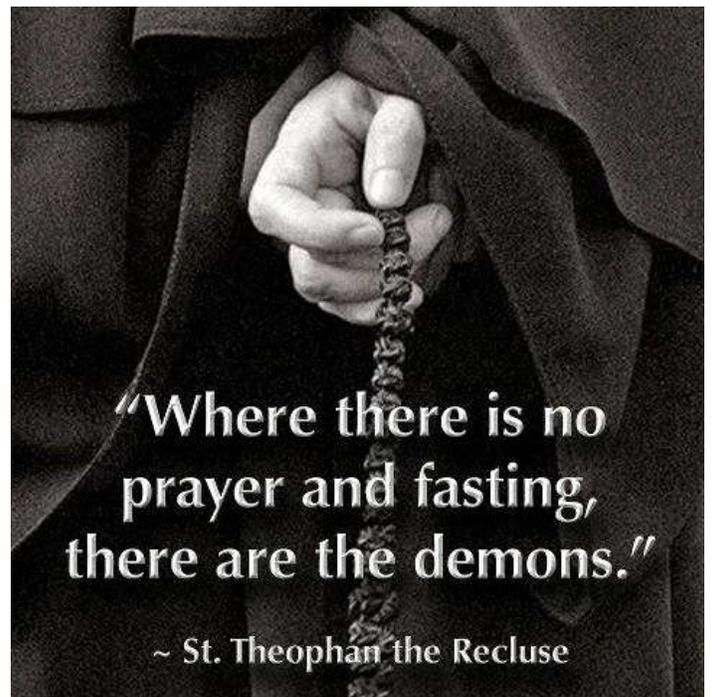
"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, your heart will be also."

Від Матвія 6:14-21

Якщо ви прощаєте людям гріхи їхні, то Отець ваш Небесний також простить вам. Та коли ви не прощаєте, то й Отець не простить вам гріхи ваші»».

«Коли ви поститесь, не прибирайте сумного вигляду, як лицеміри, які прикидаються, аби людям стало ясно, що вони постяться. Істинно кажу вам: вони вже сповна мають свою винагороду. Коли ви поститесь, зачешіть своє волосся та вмийте обличчя своє, щоб люди не побачили, що ви поститесь, щоб побачив лише Отець ваш, Якого ніхто не бачить. І Той, Хто бачить таємне, віддячить за це».

«Не складайте собі скарбів на Землі, де міль та іржа знищать їх, де злодії можуть вдертися й викрасти їх. Краще збирайте скарби для себе на Небі, де ні міль, ні іржа не понівечать їх, де злодії не вдеруться й не викрадуть їх. Бо де багатство ваше, там і серце ваше буде.



Prayer List

Heavenly Father, Who sent Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be the Physician of our souls and bodies, Who came to heal sickness and infirmity, Who healed the paralytic, and brought back to life the daughter of Jairus, Who healed the woman who had been sick for twelve years by the her mere touch of the hem of your robe, visit and heal also your beloved servants:

Fr. Paisius McGrath	Kay Patridge	Pamela Graham	Reggie Warford	Jane Allred
Fr. Mykola Dilendorf	Sharon Welsh	Peter Zinski	Pearl Homyrda	Kathryn Ostaffy
Fr. Victor Wronski	James Horowitz	Stephen Sheptak	Richard Beighy	Sally T.
Dn Nicholas Zachary	Elissa Lopez	Irene Palahunik	Mary Ellen Heitzman	Patty Valentino
Shirley Neal	Sam Jarovich	Christopher	Olha Cherniavska	Rose Zalenchak
Tim Cromchak	Andrew Brennan	Jabrell	Alexander Zbalishen	Helen Wilwert
Eva Stasko	Penny T.	Ann F.	Steven Smyczek	Joanne Klein
Patty Spotti	Steve Sioulich	Dan Rosga	Shelly Cameron	Michael Klein
Deborah Schricker	Jack Schricker	Lynda West	Claudia Losego	Ben Cramer
Tetiana Kozak	Willie Haluszczak	Pat Dorning	Jackson Janosek	Corwin Cosentino
Jennifer Marley	Cynthia Mycyk	Yaroslava Dhzyrha	Donna Forbes	Teresa Stacy
Jason Bell	Catharine Livak	MaryAnn Sklaryk	Judee Shoup	Charlie Shoup
Sarah Winn	Baby Sean	Mary Lou Bender	Lesia Federova	James Morgan
Natalia Basladynsky-Mahalay		James Morgan		

by the power and grace of Your Christ. Grant them the patience that comes from believing that You are always at work in our lives to bring good out of evil. Grant them strength of body, mind and soul. Raise them up from the bed of pain. Grant them full recovery. May they experience the same surge of healing power flow through their bodies, as did the sick woman who touched your robe. For we, too, are touching your robe today, dear Lord, through this our prayer. We approach you with the same faith she did. Grant them the gift of health. For You alone are the source of healing and to You we offer glory, praise and thanksgiving in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Mnohaya Lita - Many Blessed Years

Names Days

March 2 Martyr Inna of Scythia
Inna Holovatiuk

Anniversaries

March 3 James & Jane Allred

Birthdays

March 4 Larry Trondle

March 6 James Kiger

March 7 Eva Stasko

Feast Days of:

Pray for our friends and relatives serving in the armed forces.

Patrick Kluyber, Catherine Sheerin, Gregory Markiw, Ethan Rock, Michael Hrishenko, John Howe

Pray for our Catechumens

John Barth

Pray for our parishioners in vocational studies

Deacon Evan O'Neil, Sue Leis



- **WELCOME:** The St. Matrona Sisterhood would like to welcome our newest member, Cathy Stasko. Cathy has helped us at our cookie walks so we are very happy that she has decided to join us !
- **NUT ROLL BAKING:** Please join us this **Saturday, March 7th** we bake our nutrolls for the upcoming Pysanky Sale ! We will make another 100 nutrolls so your help is definately needed. We start at **9 am** and lunch is provided. Thank you!!

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

- March 8 Juliana Leis, Olesya Zelenyak, Sandra Rozum
- March 15 Oksana Aleksandrov, Victor & Natalie Onufrey
- March 22 Fr. John, Matushka Larissa, Sherri Walewski
- March 29 Sue Leis, Ann Woznak, Greg Woznak

Kitchen Workers Schedule

- March 26th - Thursday 12pm Potato Prep (after senior coffee hour-12:00)
- March 27th - Friday 9am 2 batches Pierogies pinch and cook 9am

Pysanky sale prep

- March 31st - Tuesday 9am Steam and core cabbage
- April 1st - Wednesday 9am Roll & cook stuffed cabbage
- April 3rd - Friday 9am Easter Paska baking for sale 9am

If any questions please contact Sherri Walewski or John Stasko

PYSANKY WRITING SESSIONS

- Sunday, March 1 After Coffee Hour
- Sunday, March 8 After Coffee Hour
- Sunday, March 15 After Coffee Hour
- Sunday, March 22 After Coffee Hour
- Sunday, March 29 Kapeluck House

Spaghetti Dinner "Putting the Pieces Together" Fund Raiser

Fr. John, Matushka Laryssa, The Parish Council, and Shirley Stasko would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped during the Friday night setup, Saturday cooking and serving, the basket and bake sale, and especially to all who donated to the Charest Family Adoption Fund Raiser. Without all of your help we could not have done this. The dinner event was a big success and the hall was always crowded with people and love for this event. We served 135 dinners on the day of the event. We raised over \$6,000 during the dinner and over \$7,000 in donations prior to and immediately after the dinner on Saturday. Donations continue to come in even now. We had a lot of our parishioners help out and donate. We also had many from outside of SS Peter and Paul Church who worked and donated. The love everyone has shown to us for this fund raiser is overwhelming and we cannot begin to thank everyone enough. All proceeds raised will go to assisting with costs associated with the national and international adoption paperwork and policies needed and also with bringing these three wonderful children to their new home right here in Carnegie.

God Bless everyone who helped work and who donated to the Charest Family Adoption Fund Raiser.

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is the cure for judgment, anger, and resentment

Our Lord Jesus Christ told us: "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you shall be forgiven (Luke 6:37)." In the Our Father, the very prayer given to His disciples after Christ was asked to teach them to pray, we say the words "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors". These strong words make it clear that we are to forgive others if we expect God to forgive us.

Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk, in his book, "Journey to Heaven", says: "Do we forgive our neighbors their trespasses? God also forgives us in His mercy. Do we refuse to forgive? God, too, will refuse to forgive us. As we treat our neighbors, so also does God treat us. The forgiveness, then, of your sins or unforgiveness, and hence also your salvation or destruction, depend on you yourself, man. For without forgiveness of sins there is no salvation."



Throughout Christ's ministry He emphasized the need for us to be willing to forgive others, for if we expect to be forgiven, we must nurture a forgiving heart. If we hold grudges, and remember wrongs, we poison our souls, and love has no place in us.

"The drunkard, the fornicator, the proud – he will receive God's mercy. But he who does not want to forgive, to excuse, to justify consciously, intentionally... ..that person closes himself to eternal life before God, and even more so in the present life. He is turned away and not heard (Elder Sampson of Russia)."

As we are quick to forgive our neighbors, so God also forgives us in His great and loving mercy. If we refuse to forgive, God, too, will refuse to forgive us. Our salvation or destruction, depend on our willingness to forgive others, for without forgiveness of sins there is no salvation.

Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

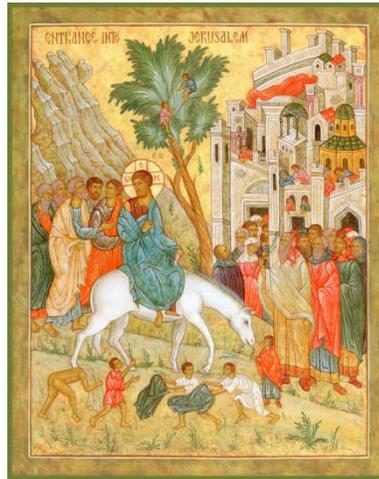
<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/morningoffering/2019/03/forgiveness-9/>

Parishioners and Friends of Saints Peter and Paul

Enclosed is the 6-month update on the Festal Icon Project, as you can see from the listing below, we have made substantial progress in pledges, sponsorships and also have multiple icons completed and others started. Thank you for your support and generosity for this project.

Available ICONS

Ascension
Descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)
Transfiguration
Nativity of the Theotokos
Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
Feast of St. Nicholas
St. Thomas Sunday
Christ the Bridegroom
Circumcision of Christ (New Years)
Zacchaeus Sunday
Publican & Pharisee Sunday
Judgement Sunday
St Gregory Palamas Sunday
St John of the Ladder Sunday
St Mary of Egypt Sunday
All Saints



Pledged ICONS

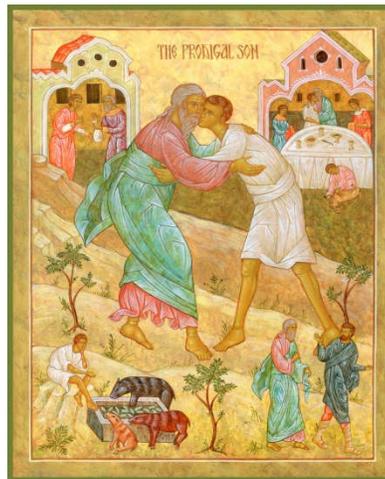
Theophany (Pledged)
Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple(Pledged)
Beheading of St John the Forerunner(Pledged)
Triumph of Orthodoxy (Pledged)
Feast of Saint Andrew (Pledged)

Sponsored ICONS

Exaltation of the Cross (Sponsored)
Protection of the Theotokos (Sponsored)
Baptism of Ukraine (Sponsored)
Myrrh Bearers Sunday (Sponsored)

Started ICONS

Raising of Lazarus (Started)
Pascha (Descent into Hades) (Started)



Completed ICONS

Nativity of Our Lord (Completed)
Annunciation (Completed)
Prodigal Son Sunday (Completed)
Entrance into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) (Completed)
"Pantanassa: icon of the Theotokos (Completed)

If you would like to pledge and sponsor any of the upcoming Lenten and Pascha related Icons please reach out to Father John, Michael Kapeluck or Howard West. They made be able to get scheduled and completed in time for that specific feast day. Thank you again for your support of Saints Peter and Paul.

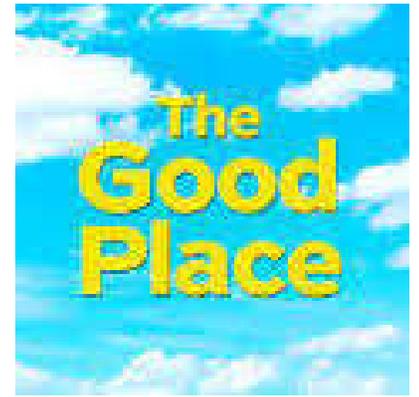
If you would like to sponsor a specific Feast Day or Saints Day Icon that is not on the above list please get with Michael Kapeluck or Father John and we can have it added to the list.



The Good Place

· [Fr. Lawrence Farley](#)

I have just finished watching the series finale of a wonderful television show called *The Good Place*, starring Kristen Bell and Ted Danson. It features the fellowship and adventures of a few people who die and end up in hell, but who are told that they are in heaven, the Good Place—all the better to torture them in hell. Eventually they do indeed find their way to the Good Place (i.e. to heaven), but discover that everyone there is bored and secretly miserable. That is because in heaven people can have whatever they desire simply by asking for it, and they find that such an endless succession of pleasures ultimately leads to stagnation and misery. The series should not be viewed as offering a theological statements, but as a satire on contemporary cultural mores (a kind of *The Simpsons* meets *Cheers*)—though of course it cannot completely avoid making a statement about ultimate reality. As it turns out, the Buddhists had it right, and final reality consists in returning like a wave to the undifferentiated ocean of being. Whatever. The series invites one to enjoy the ride which traces the moral growth of the central characters, and its somewhat cheeky critique of contemporary culture. I loved it.



The series also leads a Christian to reflect upon the actual nature of the Good Place. As the series has intuited, heavenly bliss cannot consist of getting one's every desire instantly fulfilled, so that if one wants a Coke one need only say the word and a Coke instantly appears in one's hand. If one supposes that the foundation upon which heaven is built is the gratification of human desire, then heaven will indeed quickly become indistinguishable from hell. Heaven is not a celestial Disneyland, "the happiest place (not) on earth", where all the earthly pleasures we desired in this life are finally indulged in the next. God is not a genie of the lamp, granting wishes. Our desires in this life do not constitute the foundation upon which heaven is built but, all too often, the problem which heaven heals. A Buddhist annihilation of human desire (the final solution of the problem offered by *The Good Place*) is not the answer, because the fact that we have desires is not the problem; our problem is that our desires have become twisted out of shape and need fixing.

We were made to be loved by God. Our eternal happiness—what makes the Good Place good—is that God is there. Heaven is not about *us*, but about *Him*. There is a God-shaped void in every heart that can only be filled by God, so that if He does not fill the void within us, we will be eternally empty and ultimately miserable. If we would only wake up, we would know that God is our true love, and finding our true love is eternal fulfilment, a love that always satisfies, but can never be satiated. St. Gregory of Nyssa said as much when he spoke of an eternal progression into joy. *The Good Place* run by Ted Danson would be of no use to us, because Jesus never made an appearance there. The philosopher Hypatia did (that darling of the anti-Christian secularists), but not the Son of God. We Christians have met Jesus, and we know that heaven is only heaven because He is there. Any lover knows this.

Heaven is not heaven because our ephemeral desires (such as for a Coke) can be instantly fulfilled, but because we will be with the Lord. Any place where Jesus can be found is heaven; any place He from which He is absent is hell. That is why St. Paul once wrote not that his desire was to depart this life and *go to heaven*, but to depart and *be with Christ* (Philippians 1:23).

Mere pleasure, the passing gratification of merely earthly desires—cannot ultimately satisfy. That is a truth that many people do not know, and we may be thankful that *The Good Place* has pointed it out to us. Heaven is not a theme park, where we can ride the roller coaster for free over and over again. That would indeed pale over time. Heaven—and the age to come—is the place where Jesus reigns, and where we can serve Him. It is about basking in the presence of Christ, seeing the face of God, standing in a place where the glory of God rolls over one's heart and fills it with joy.

It is not (as some as drearily suggested) like standing in a church service forever, for church services are not times of uninterrupted glory and joy. There are flashes of glory, of course, but for most of us they are few and irregular. One should consider church services not so much a foretaste of what will come, as a promise that something better will come. If heaven's joy may be compared with the excitement of parachuting, church services may be compared being fitted with the parachute. The fitting may have the excitement of anticipation, but the real thrill only comes after we leave the plane. So with church services: we may be blessed with anticipatory flashes of joy at Pascha, but the real joy comes after we leave this earth.

Ultimately heaven is not about finding earthly pleasures such as we might find in a theme park or fine restaurant, but about finding our true selves. We need to be changed on the inside, to become our true selves, so that heaven be will heavenly.

As C.S. Lewis (that theologian of joy) once wrote, “Heaven offers nothing that a mercenary soul can desire. It is safe to tell the pure in heart that they shall see God, for only the pure in heart want to”.

If Christ has not begun to change and purify our hearts so that we love God more than we love human pleasure, heaven will contain nothing that could please us. If we have begun to change on the inside so that leave behind our false selves and love God, then heaven will all that we could ever desire. For those who can say, “For me to live is Christ” (Philippians 1:21), heaven will be a weight of glory beyond all comparison, for heaven will be full of Christ. In the words of St. Augustine, when we reach our goal, “We shall rest and we shall see; we shall see and we shall love; we shall love and we shall praise. Behold what will be, in the end, without end! For what is our end, but to reach that Kingdom which has no end?” That sounds like a good place indeed.

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/nooterfoundation/the-good-place/>

Where is God?

How do we find God in an unbelieving world?

God is a merciful God, quick to forgive, quick to show mercy, quick to embrace us when we turn to Him. In all of eternity our God chose to create humankind in His image and likeness, offering His creatures the opportunity to commune with Him in the endlessness that is time. He’s given us free will, allowing us to choose, or not to choose, a relationship with Him. We, in our freedom, can choose between good (God) and evil (Satan), as is our choice.

We can usually tell the difference between good and evil. Murder and theft are obviously to be found in the evil camp, whereas kindness, philanthropic deeds, mercy and love, are in the camp of holiness, and the divine. Yet so many feel that God is simply a myth, a nice idea, but hardly believable. If this God they’d like to believe in were truly real, wouldn’t He make it easier to see Him, and seek Him out? If we are free to chose God, why doesn’t He make Himself easier to find? Why does this God expect us to believe in Him when we can not see Him, or feel Him? If there be a God, why doesn’t He simply make Himself known, letting us choose or not choose communion with Him?



These are questions that many people pose, at least to themselves. Many want to believe there is a God who cares for them, and is capable of making a difference in their day to day struggles, but just can’t quite surrender to belief. The nihilistic philosophy that has possessed the hearts of many young people today is based on the despair of an age that has seen so many wars, so much poverty, so many murders, so many children abused, and a seemingly hopeless future. How can there be a God when so much suffering abounds in this world? How can there be a God when even innocent people, good people, suffer?

Where is God? He is in the sunrise. He is in the glorious mountains, and the vast sea that stretches beyond the horizon. He is in the tender touch of a mother’s hand on her newborn baby. He is in the protective arm of the police officer who comforts the lost child. He is in the words of absolution pronounced by the priest after a good confession. He is in the smiling face of an old woman at the site of a young couple holding hands. He is in the wonder of the cosmos on a darkened night. He is in the giggle of a small child playing with his grandfather. He is in the warmth of a kitten held in one’s hand. He is in the cross that bore the Son of Man. He is in the bread and wine that become His body and blood. He is the transforming Spirit that changes hearts and makes men saints. He is closer to us than our own breath, more loving than a grandmother’s embrace of a sick child. He is everywhere, for there is no place He can not be. He fills all things. He is everywhere to be seen if only we look with open eyes and open hearts.+With love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/morningoffering/2020/02/where-is-god-4/>



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To the Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and the Devout Faithful of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the United States,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday, March 1st has been designated Mission Sunday by the Hierarchs of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States.

Missions lies at the very core of our Orthodox tradition. The Church was founded on a spirit of sharing the Good News of Christ's Resurrection with the world so that all people, in every nation, may partake of salvation and restoration through Him.

Throughout the years, the Church has sent missionaries (beginning with the Apostles themselves) into the world to bear witness to the Faith. This year, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the canonization of one such missionary – St. Herman of Alaska. His inspirational life is an example of how we too can share the Truth of Orthodoxy to the ends of the earth.

The ministries of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) continue the work of St. Herman and the countless missionaries who preceded him. Through the Mission Center, you can answer the call to missions that we all share. For some, the call is to pray for the people serving in the global mission field. For others, it is to support this work through a sacrificial offering. And for still others, the call is to go and serve as a missionary or as part of a mission team.

The OCMC will help you answer this calling whatever it may be; and we invite you to learn more about missions and missionary service by visiting www.ocmc.org.

As we begin Great and Holy Lent, journeying steadily toward Christ's triumphant Resurrection, please remember that His sacrifice was for the salvation of all humankind. Please also remember that there are still over one billion people in the world who have yet to hear about Christ in a meaningful way. Pray that these people may be reached, and prayerfully consider all you can do to make this possible.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos
Episcopal Liaison to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center

Fr. Martin Ritsi
Executive Director

Praying Our Way Together Through Great Lent 2020

Eph.6:17-18 "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to the end with all perseverance..."



Come join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ on a Lenten journey as we pray and read the Psalter each day for 20 days!

What: Reading the Psalter

When: March 16, 2020 – April 10, 2020, five days a week, Monday - Friday, at any convenient time

Where: In the comfort of your home or wherever you may be with your device.

Why: To heighten your Lenten journey by reading the Prayer Book of the Church!

If you would like to journey with us, please email your name, address, phone number, parish name, and parish address to Janice Meschisen at Praying-our-way@uolofusa.org and more information will be sent to you.

Please respond by March 13, 2020

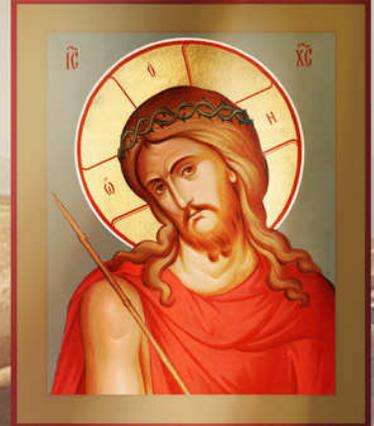
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GREAT LENT RETREATS

Journey into the desert with other Orthodox faithful by participating in a Lenten Retreat.

Become spiritually transformed through fasting, Lenten services, and spiritually edifying sessions.



IN SEARCH OF GOD

2020 Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat

March 28, 2020

Villa Maria Spiritual and Educational Center

2067 Evergreen Road, Villa Maria, PA 16155

OhioWPALentenRetreat@gmail.com

412-565-9441

HUMILITY IN THE 21-ST CENTURY

Lenten Retreat

April 4, 2020

Speakers:

- Fr. Anthony Perkins

- Dr. Natalie Bilynsky

St. Francis Center for Renewal

395 Bridle Path Road

Bethlehem, PA

nsufler@aol.com

610-892-7315

GOD IS CALLING

...will you answer?



UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА США

Calendar of Events

March 28	Lenten Retreat Villa Maria
March 28	Pysanky Workshop
April 4	Lenten Retreat Bethlehem
April 5	53 rd Annual Pysanky Sale
June 12 – 15	St Nicholas Special Needs Family Camp
June 21-July 13	Diocesan Church School Camp
July 5-18	Teenage Conference
July 22-26	23 rd Annual UOL Convention
July 27-31	Mommy & Me /Daddy & Me Camp

Parish Weekly Schedule

Monday

Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble & School

Rehearsals begin every Monday at 6:00 pm. Classes for all ages.

For more info call Director Natalie Kapeluck or just stop down any Monday.

Thursday Morning

Senior Coffee Hour

You're invited to our FREE coffee and donuts, and sometime pancakes, French toast or waffles every Thursday from 10:00 AM to 11:30 . . .or whenever it's over. At the parish hall. **YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BRING ANYTHING!!!** However, bring a Friend!!! Need A Ride, Call: Steve Sivulich, (Hall Phone: 412-276-9718)

SPONSORED BY:

Sts. Peter & Paul Kitchen Workers

3rd Sunday of the Month

St John & Martin's Closet

Clothing for men, women and children. Bedding & towels

Trade something old for something new, leave a donation. or just take what you need.

Donations of clean, gently used or new clothing/bedding accepted when the closet door is open. all 276-9718 to schedule a donation.

Parish Website/Social Media

To Submit items for publication on website & social media:

>email information/items to orthodoxcarnegie@gmail.com

>if you have a flyer (not required) submit in picture format if possible

>allow 24 to 48 hours for request to be completed.

If needed sooner, please indicate and text Chris Mills at 412-716-0562.

>an email can be submitted from Parish Website | Contact Page ; using the technology email form

BULLETIN SPONSOR DATES

March 1 _____ Sponsored
March 8 _____ Sponsored
March 15 _____
March 22 _____
March 29 _____

April 5 _____
April 12 _____
April 19 _____
April 26 _____

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SS. Peter & Paul
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
PO Box 835
Carnegie, PA 15106

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED