

HOLY PROPHET ELIJAH





# St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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[www.orthodoxcarnegie.org](http://www.orthodoxcarnegie.org)

## AUGUST 2, 2020

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM, TONE 7

8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPHET ELIJAH

1 COR 1: 10-18; MAT. 14: 14 -22

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

VESPERS 6:00 PM

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM, TONE 8

8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GREAT MARTYR PANTELEIMON

1 COR 3: 9-17; MT. 14: 22-34

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MNOHAYA LITA !

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-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 неправославній 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 спізнівся 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'якості, 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**



## HOLY AND GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIJAH

### TROPARION TO THE RESURRECTION TONE 7

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise!  
For the myrrh-bearers,  
Thou didst change weeping into joy!  
And Thou didst command Thy disciples,  
O Christ God,  
to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world  
great mercy.

### TROPARION - TONE 4

An angel in the flesh and the cornerstone of the prophets, the second forerunner of the coming of Christ, Glorious Elijah sent grace from on high to Elisha, to dispel diseases and to cleanse lepers. Therefore, he pours forth healings on those who honor him.

### KONTAKION - TONE 2

Prophet Elijah of great renown,  
seer of the mighty mighty works of God,  
by your command you held back the rain!  
Pray for us to the only Lover of mankind!

### KONTAKION TO THE RESURRECTION TONE 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers! Hell is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: the Savior has come to those in faith! Enter you faithful, into the Resurrection!

### PROKIMON

The Lord shall give strength unto His people; the Lord shall give His people the blessing of peace.

*Verse:* Bring unto the Lord, O ye sons of God, bring young rams unto the Lord.

### Lesson from the First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (c. 1, v. 10-17)

Brethren, I entreat you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to reach an agreement, to stop your dissensions, and to be perfectly united in mind and purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's household that you are quarreling with each other, my dear friends.

What I mean is this, that one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," another, "I am a follower of Apollos," another, "I am a follower of Peter," and another, "I am a follower of Christ."

Now, Christ is not divided. Paul was not crucified for you. And you have not been baptized in the name of Paul. I am thankful to God that I have not baptized anyone of you except Crispus and Gaius. So, no one can say that you were baptized in my name. Yes, I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. I do not know that I baptized anyone else.

Christ has not sent me to baptize, but to preach his Gospel without any fine rhetoric and let the Cross of Christ reveal its full power.

## 1 до коринтян 1:10-17

Я благаю вас, брати і сестри мої, іменем Господа нашого Ісуса Христа, щоб усі ви погоджувалися одне з одним, щоб не було розбрату між вами, і щоб були ви єдині в думках своїх і прагненнях. Бо стало мені відомо від Хлоїних домашніх, що між вами є суперечки. І ось що я маю на увазі: кожен із вас каже: «Я — прибічник Павла» — «Я — Аполлосів» — «Я — Кифин» — «А я — прибічник Христа».

Хіба ж Христос розділюється? Хіба був розіп'ятий за вас Павло? Чи, може, хрестилися ви в ім'я Павлове? Я дякую Богові, що нікого з вас не хрестив, окрім Криспа і Гаая. Тож ніхто з вас не може сказати, що хрестився моїм ім'ям. Хрестив я ще Степанову родину, а щодо інших, то не пригадаю, чи хрестив я ще когось. Бо Христос послав мене не хрестити, а проповідувати Добру Звістку та без надмірного красномовства, щоб хрест Христовий не втратив сили своєї.

### Alleluia

The Lord will give strength to His people. The Lord will bless His people with peace. ·  
Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God. Offer young rams to the Lord

### The Gospel According to Saint Matthew

(с. 14, v. 14-22)

At that time, Jesus saw a large crowd and was moved with compassion toward them, and healed those of them who were sick. In the evening his Disciples came up to him and said: "This is a desert place and the time is already past. Dismiss the people and let them go to the villages where they can buy food for themselves."

Jesus answered them: "They do not need to go away. Give them food yourselves." They replied: "We have here only five loaves and two fishes." He said to them: "Bring them here to me."

Then he ordered the people to sit down on the grass, he took the five loaves and the two fishes, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke them, and handed them to his Disciples, who distributed them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied.

Afterwards they gathered up the pieces left over and filled twelve baskets with them. Those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Then he compelled his Disciples to get into the ship and cross before him to the other side while he was dismissing the people.

### Від Матвія 14:14-22

Коли Ісус вийшов із човна на берег і побачив великий натовп, то був сповнений жалю до цих людей і зцілював хворих, яких вони привели з собою.

Наближався вечір. Ісусові учні прийшли до Нього й сказали: «Це місце безлюдне, і вже досить пізно. Відпусти людей, щоб вони змогли піти по селах і придбати собі якоїсь їжі». Та Ісус відповів апостолам: «Їм не треба йти звідси. Ви нагодуйте їх!» Учні тоді Йому кажуть: «У нас нічого немає, крім п'яти хлібин та двох рибин». І мовив Ісус: «Приведіть усіх до Мене».

Ісус звелів людям посідати на траву, тоді узяв п'ять хлібин й дві рибини, підвівши очі до неба, возніс хвалу Богові за їжу. Він розломив хліби і роздав їх Своїм учням, а вони роздали народу. Всі поїли й наїлися, а потім учні ще зібрали дванадцять кошиків із залишками їжі. А тих, хто їли, було близько п'яти тисяч чоловіків, не рахуючи жінок та дітей.

Одразу ж після цього Ісус звелів Своїм учням сісти в човен і плисти на інший берег озера, а Сам залишився, щоб відпустити людей.

# 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	Mary Lou Bender	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
Christopher	Olha Cherniavska	Rose Zalenchak	Lesia Federova	James Morgan
Tim Cromchak	Andrew Brennan	Jabrell	Alexander Zbalishen	Helen Wilwert
Sarah Winn	Penny T.	Ann F.	Steven Smyczek	Joanne Klein
Patty Spotti	Steve Sivulich	Dan Rosga	Shelly Cameron	Michael Klein
Deborah Schricker	Jack Schricker	Lynda West	Claudia Losego	Ben Cramer
Tetiana Kozak	Willie Haluszczak	Pat Dorning	Jackson Janosek	Athena Mycyk
Jennifer Marley	Cynthia Mycyk	Yaroslava Dhzyrha	Donna Forbes	Teresa Stacy
Jason Bell	MaryAnn Sklaryk	Esta Peyton	Natalia Mahalay	Carl H.
Chloe	Gabby Mills	Dom Mills		

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

#### August 2 Prophet Elijah

Elias Olexa

#### August 4 Myrrh bearer Mary Magdalene

Marlane Pawlosky

#### August 6 Martyr Christina

Kristi Rozum, Christine Wachnowsky

#### August 8. St. Paraskeva

Pearl Homyrda

### Anniversaries

August 3 Kathy & Jim Peyton

August 7 Fr. Steve, Anniv.

August 8 Fr. John & Laryssa Charest

### Birthdays

August 2 Natalie Onufrey

August 4 Michelle Quinn

August 5 Oleh Holovatiuk

### Feast Days of:

August 2 Prophet Elijah

August 3 Prophet Ezekiel

August 4 Mary Magdalene

August 6 Martyr Christina

August 6 Passion Bearers Boris and Hlib

August 7 St. Olympia

August 8 Great Martyr Panteliemon

August 8 Virgin Martyr Paraskeva

### 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

,Sue Leis



- **ATTENTION LENTEN PRAYER PAL PARTICIPANTS:** Since we weren't physically in church for Pascha we weren't able to give our Lenten Prayer Pals their little gift. Since many of us are back in church, please find a way to address your Lenten Prayer Pal. You may leave something in the back of the church for your Pal or just send a card if you aren't sure if that person is attending church. Whatever you choose to do, please be sure to reach out to your Lenten Pal. Thank you all for your participation!
- **MEMORY ETERNAL:** Our prayers and sympathies go out to family of Eva Stasko, who fell asleep in the Lord this past week. Her funeral was on Saturday and she was buried in the parish cemetery. May her memory be eternal.
- **LITURGY SIGN-UP:** Please respond to Fr. John's e-mail with your availability for Sunday Liturgies. You can either e-mail him directly or reply to the message sent by Cindy. If you did not receive the e-mail please e-mail Cindy Haluszczak at [tetaksenia@aol.com](mailto:tetaksenia@aol.com) to be added to the parish e-mail list.
- **VEHICLE BLESSING:** On this day we commemorate the Prophet Elijah who was taken up from the Earth on a chariot. Since he was taken by chariot up to Heaven, there is a tradition of blessing vehicles on this day. After Liturgy Fr. John will bless cars, trucks, motorcycles, or any vehicle you bring (kids may have their bicycles blessed if parents are able to get them to church).

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## *Stewardship*

**THANK YOU FOR THESE RECENT DONATIONS:**

St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

UOL Caring  
Project



Meal & Food  
Drive

***Meal & Food Drive for Families in need.***

Sponsored by the Sr. UOL Caregiving & Missions Committee

***“Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard” Proverbs 21:13***

**Our Families**

- ◆ Family #1: Family #1 has 3 adults & a 15 month old.
- ◆ Family #2: Family #2 has 5 adults and 2 children ages 6 & 7.
- ◆ Family #3: Family #3 has 1 adult and 6 children ages 4, 4,6,9,12, & 17.

**How can I participate?**

- ◆ Purchase/gather your ***non-perishable*** items for a meal for one of the families listed above. (Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner).
- ◆ Place all items for that meal, for the family in a bag and label it with “Family # 1, 2 or 3”.
- ◆ Place the bag in the designated drop off area at church.
- ◆ If you would like to donate a ***perishable*** item (gallon of milk) please contact Fr. John to coordinate so he can get it from you and to the family in a timely manner.
- ◆ Sr. UOL Chapter Members & Fr. John will make sure the meals are delivered to the local families.

**Questions?**

Please see committee chairs  
Chris Mills, Sue Leis or Fr. John

***We Thank you for your support of this project !***



# UKRAINIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Our Annual Food Festival is a go! We have planned a fun but safe outdoor event to invite the community back to our parish. The Festival will be a limited order to go and outdoor seating event. We will have several tents outside for the Basket Raffle and Prepackaged Bake Sale as well as a small number of dining tables. Below are the areas we need help. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

## FOOD

We are going to be making Pierogies 3 times in August for our Ukrainian Food Festival on Sept 11-12  
We need 9 people for each 3-4 hour pierogi session starting at 9am until noon.

We will be pinching and cooking. The dates are on Saturdays as follows , but we can change to a week day if we have 9 workers please let me know what is best.

Please email Sherri your availability [najoda@comcast.net](mailto:najoda@comcast.net)

**August 8th** Workers needed: 6- pinchers 1-packer 2-kitchen worker

**August 15th** Workers needed: 6- pinchers 1-packer 2-kitchen worker

**August 22nd** Workers needed : 6- pinchers 1-packer 2-kitchen worker

## BASKET RAFFLE

Because of COVID-19 we would like to keep the number down to no more than a dozen baskets but make them really nice baskets (valued between \$100 & \$200). We understand that times are difficult for many and for this reason we would like to encourage “buddy” baskets. Ask a family member or friend to be your “Buddy” For example, maybe someone wants to donate a gift card and another person donates wine and glasses. We can put them together to make a really nice basket. Below we have listed some basket themes. All basket items need to be dropped off at the hall no later than Sunday, September 6th. Please contact Tracey Sally (412) 327-8694 or Michele Kapeluck (412) 303-1454. We want to keep track as to what baskets are being donated and who all are donating them. Thank you for your cooperation and time.

Basket theme ideas:

-lotto, -pysanky -beer -Pittsburgh -fall -Christmas -gift card -date night in -home spa

## BAKE SALE

The bake sale will all be prepackaged items. Please stay tuned for further details.

## FESTIVAL DAY

We will need the following workers :

Order Takers

Order Fillers

Kitchen

Bake Sale Table

Basket Raffle Table

Table Bussers

Tent set up (early Friday and Saturday morning)

We will hopefully be able to man the Festival with no more than 10 workers.

The Festival hours will be 11-7:00pm each day.

Please call (412-527-5359) or e-mail ([kapeluck@verizon.net](mailto:kapeluck@verizon.net)) Michael Kapeluck if you can volunteer a few hours.

## Holy Prophet Elijah

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

St Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: "When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames." The name Elijah (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1) The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let



him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiastes 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries. The first church in Rus-Ukraine, built at Kyiv under Prince Ihor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her Baptism St Olha built a temple of the holy Prophet Elijah in his native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

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## The Absence of Love

Our liturgical rites and religious traditions are of no value if we have not love and mercy. When we rise to a sincere evangelical love for others, we become God's collaborators, for our Christian love and mercy is the most divine trait possible for the human being. Our mercy is the expression of our love of God, for it is in our love of God that our mercy is poured out upon those who suffer, and upon those who are ill, or helpless in body and mind. Our Christian mercy springs from love and is a concrete expression of love.

Our religious rites and practices are not an end in themselves, but vehicles by which we enter into a profound relationship with God, Who is love. The very essence of our Christian faith is love because God Himself is love (1 John 4:8). Thus, our Christian morality, our ethics, and even our liturgical services and rites, are inconceivable in the absence of love. And, this love is not merely an act that has sprung up from a sense of ethical duty, but something that binds our world, the one seen, to the heavenly world, that world unseen. One world is temporal, and the other world is eternal, yet both have been created by God. The temporal world is wherein we exercise, preparing ourselves for the eternal world. Mercy and love is the means by which both are connected.



With love in Christ,  
Abbot Tryphon



St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
[www.orthodoxcarnegie.org](http://www.orthodoxcarnegie.org)



*Congratulations to members of  
St. Peter & St. Paul Sr. UOL Chapter*

*The following chapter members were elected or appointed to positions on the UOL National Executive Board at the 73rd UOL Convention, July 25, 2020. The convention was conducted “virtually via zoom” to conduct annual UOL business and items.*

*Fr. John Charest Jr. UOL NEB Spiritual Advisor*

*Chris Mills, Recording Secretary*

*Matushka Laryssa Charest, Corresponding Secretary*

*John Stasko, Auditor*

*Thank you for your dedication!*



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*Congratulations to  
St. Peter & St. Paul Sr. UOL Chapter Member*

***Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon***

*On being awarded the Metro J. Baran Achievement Award. The award is presented “for outstanding service with the Youth of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church” Natalie stepped up during the pandemic and developed “out-of-the box” religious and annual encamping programming for our youth across the country. The efforts were noticed and used across other churches as well. Her time and energy toward the youth of our church are greatly appreciated! Thank you for your love and dedication Natalie!*

# The Despair of Elijah

July 26, 2020 · [Fr. Lawrence Farley](#)

The prophet Elijah (whose feast day is July 20) is perhaps best known for his final ascent to heaven in a chariot of fire. He is also famous for being fed by a raven, and also for the dramatic contest on Mount Carmel.

This last event was arguably the pinnacle of his prophetic career. Elijah served God in very dark days. Israel had always carried on a foolish and fatal dalliance with pagan gods such as Baal (the Canaanite god of storm, rain, and fertility) ever since first arriving in the Promised Land, and the prophets had always rebuked this idolatry and called the people back to pure fidelity to Yahweh alone. But in the days of Elijah, this idolatrous attachment to Baal was not simply a widespread popular sin; it became established government policy.



King Ahab, aided (and perhaps driven) by his queen Jezebel, a Sidonian who of course worshipped gods other than Yahweh, was determined to pursue a policy of religious syncretism. Part of his motivation for this was political, for by enshrining Baal as the national god of Israel, he was thereby bringing his country into the international religious mainstream, which had economic benefits for all concerned. Ahab did not want to outlaw the worship of Yahweh. Yahweh could still be worshipped along with the other gods, though He would no longer be the dominant deity. What Ahab *did* outlaw was the pure Yahwism and the *exclusive* worship of Yahweh espoused and promoted by men such as Elijah, for Elijah was telling everyone that the King's policy of syncretism and Baal worship was evil and should be resisted.

Elijah roundly declared that worshipping any god other than Yahweh was sinful idolatry, a sin which would bring divine wrath upon the people—wrath promised by Yahweh in the Law should the people break His covenant and worship idols. One part of this wrath consisted of drought (Deuteronomy 28:23-24), and it was just this judgment that Elijah brought upon Israel in God's name: "As Yahweh God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word" (1 Kings 17:1). And so the drought began, and the people began to suffer and die. As far as King Ahab was concerned, Elijah was a traitor and a criminal, a troubler of Israel who afflicted the people and who deserved death (1 Kings 18:17).

The battle therefore was joined, and the followers of Elijah who denounced the royal policy were rounded up and killed. Elijah especially was a wanted and hunted man, for there was no nation or kingdom where Ahab had not sent to seek for him; and when they would say, "He is not here", Ahab would insist that they swear an oath that they had not found him (1 Kings 18:10).

The contest on Mount Carmel occurred as the climax of this story of national suffering, prophetic rebellion, and international intrigue. The drought could not go on indefinitely, and so Elijah called the people to a final showdown on Mount Carmel to decide once and for all which policy should be followed—either the syncretism of Ahab or the exclusivist Yahwism of Elijah.

The story of the contest is well known: at Elijah's suggestion, two altars were set up, with a bull cut up and laid upon each one, but no fire lit to consume the offering. The rival groups would call upon their god and whichever god answered the plea by sending fire from heaven (i.e. lightning) to consume the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. If Baal answered with fire, the people would worship Baal and forget Yahweh; if Yahweh answered, the people would worship Yahweh alone and not Baal. The people agreed.

At Elijah's suggestion, the worshippers of Baal went first, since they were the more numerous. Four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal were there to press their cause (and to seize Elijah afterward to bring him to Ahab for execution), as well as another four hundred prophets of Baal's *asherah* or consort. From morning until noon they limped around the altar, shouting and calling upon Baal the storm god to send lightning and consume the sacrifice. About noon Elijah cried out to encourage them: "Shout louder! He'll hear you for sure, since he's a god! Maybe he's busy thinking about something, or is on the toilet! Or maybe he's off on business trip! Or maybe he's dozed off and needs you to wake him up!" (I paraphrase; the actual words can be found in 1 Kings 18:27.) Elijah was not just mocking the devotees of Baal; he was also deliberately insulting Baal himself, thus inviting Baal's wrath—assuming of course that Baal had any real power. Which of course he did not, as Elijah's insults were pointedly demonstrating.

The Baal worshippers didn't give up. They worked themselves into a bloody frenzy (literally), cutting themselves with knives. They raved on with their prophetic invocations (the Hebrew word for "rave" and "prophecy" is the same word) until late afternoon, until they finally collapsed in exhaustion. Then it was Elijah's turn.

His demeanour was calm and confident, a studied contrast to the frenzy of the worshippers of Baal. He bid the people draw near, and took twelve stones to repair the altar of Yahweh, thereby calling the twelve tribes back to their ancestral allegiance. Then he dug a trench around the altar and asked the people to soak the offering with water, making it harder to ignite. They soaked the offering, and then (at Elijah's word) soaked it again. And then again a third time. Then Elijah the prophet prayed a simple prayer, asking Yahweh to send fire from heaven and turn the people's hearts back to Him.

Immediately the fire of God fell from heaven, and consumed the offering and the wood under it and the stones and the dust and licked up the water filling and overflowing the trench. The people fell on their faces, crying "Yahweh! He is God! Yahweh! He is God!" Elijah commanded them to seize the idolatrous prophets of Baal and execute them for their apostasy even as the Law demanded.

This contest should have decided the future policy and turned the tide back to the exclusive worship of Yahweh. Instead, it merely intensified royal fury, and Jezebel swore that she would have Elijah dead within twenty-four hours. Elijah, alone, friendless, and forsaken, fled for his life, departing from Mount Carmel in the north to Beer-sheba in the extreme south of the country. There he stopped and prayed that he might die. He had utterly failed: failed in his mission to turn Israel back to God, failed to stop the juggernaut of royal power, and more importantly, he had failed Yahweh Himself. He determined to head further south to Mount Horeb, the historic origin of Yahwism, and there to confess to Him his failure, and ask that he might die.

He came to Mount Horeb, and God asked him why he wanted an audience with Him. "Because despite my zealous work, the people have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and killed Your prophets. I alone am left, and they are even now seeking my life too". Waiting for his requested audience, Elijah saw a storm, which broke the rocks. And then came an earthquake, and then a fire, but Yahweh's presence was not in any of these. Then, after all these, came the sound of quiet blowing or gentle breeze. And Yahweh's presence was there. But what sound does a quiet breeze make? None, though it can be felt. What Elijah experienced was a silence that could be felt, but not heard. And Yahweh was there in that vast and pregnant silence. Yahweh inquired again why Elijah had requested such an audience and he repeated his cry of resignation, of failure, and despair. He had no choice, he felt, but to give up and die.

But God did not accept his despair or his resignation. Instead, he told him to return to work. For there was much work to do: Elijah must travel far north to Damascus and anoint Hazael king over Syria, and then south to Israel to anoint Jehu king over Israel, and then anoint Elisha as his successor. No time for grieving over failure; no time to waste. And Elijah was not alone, for God had left seven thousand in Israel who like Elijah were loyal to Him and not had bowed the knee to Baal. There was hope for the future.

Yahweh's word to despairing Elijah speaks to us in our times of despair, discouragement, and anguish too. Life in this vale of tears contains events which tear at the heart and wear out the soul: the loss of children, the break-up of marriage, depression, unemployment, chronic pain, increasing dementia in old age. None are exempt from all the shocks that mortal flesh is heir to, and all eventually join Elijah in wanting to give up and be gathered to their fathers. What do we do then?

First, we must seek the presence of God that is found only in silence. Our world contains noise and tumult, and we see wind, and earthquake, and fire all around us. But God is not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. He is to be found in the silence, and it is there we must seek Him and find new strength.

Second, we must return to our places, and persevere in our assigned tasks, mindful of that little used four letter word, "duty". God will do what seems good to Him, and we have been promised that all things will work together for our good in the end. Our sole task is to do our duty, and work away at whatever God has asked us to do.

Finally, we must take heart and know that though we may feel isolated and helpless, we are not alone. We march as part of an army, though our numbers be scattered throughout the world. We may be only a little flock, a tiny band of brothers on earth, but we are joined by an innumerable army of saints and angels watching us, praying for us, and cheering for us in the heavenlies. Elijah had the assurance that he was but one of seven thousand; we have the assurance that we are joined by an even greater multitude. Let us fight on and not heed the wounds inflicted by the world. A chariot of fire is waiting to take us home. <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/notherfoundation/the-despair-of-elijah/>

# Calendar of Events

September 11-12 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pysanky Sale & Ukrainian Food Festival

## 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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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

Find & follow us on:



**BULLETIN SPONSOR DATES**

August 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
August 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
August 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
August 23 \_\_\_\_\_  
August 30 \_\_\_\_\_

September 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
September 13 \_\_\_\_\_  
September 20 \_\_\_\_\_  
September 27 \_\_\_\_\_

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