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St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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

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Deacon Evan O'Neil

Parish Hall: 412- 276-9718

President: Howard West 724-910-9627

www.orthodoxcarnegie.org

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM, TONE 2
35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ST GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN
1 TIM 1: 15 - 17; LK 18: 35- 43

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

VESPERS 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

DIVINE LITURGY 9:30 AM, TONE 3
SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS
MARTYR TRYPHON
1 TIM 4: 9- 15; LK 19: 1- 10

LITANY FOR PETER & SOPHIE MATWICZYK, LUKE GALYCZ
40TH DAY PARASTAS IN MEMORY OF ROSE ZALENCHAK

ALL SERVICE LIVE STREAMED AT:

<https://orthodoxcarnegie.org/livestream>

TODAY'S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY

MARLANE, CLAUDIA, AND RACHEL IN HONOR OF THEIR
MOTHER/GRANDMOTHER KATHRYN ON HER 97TH BIRTHDAY!
WISHING HER GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR MANY
YEARS! MNOHAYA LITA

!

2020 Parish Board of Directors

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**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 нашнім 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;

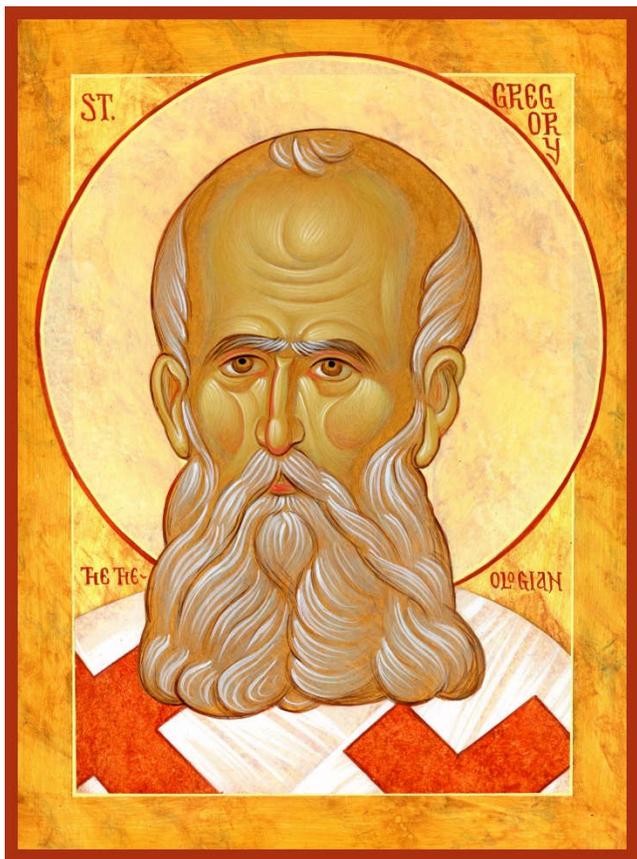
всі православні християни повинні, принаймні, раз на рік отримати Святе Причастя;

ті, хто 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

ST GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN THE ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE



TROPARIUM TO THE RESURRECTION TONE 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy God-head!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out;
O Giver of Life, Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

TROPARIUM TO ST GREGORY- TONE 1

The sweet-sounding shepherd's pipe of your theology
overpowered the trumpeting of the orators;
for having searched the depths of the Spirit
eloquence was also bestowed upon you.
Pray to Christ God, Father Gregory,
that our souls may be saved.

KONTAKION TO ST GREGORY- TONE 3

By words of theology you unraveled
the complex webs of the orators, glorious Gregory,
and adorned the Church with the robe
of Orthodoxy woven from on high.
Wearing it, she cries out with us, her children:
"Rejoice, O Father, supreme mind of theology."

KONTAKION TO THE RESURRECTION TONE 2

Hell became afraid, O Almighty Savior,
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam,
beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,
and the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

Prokiemon

The Lord is my strength and my song, and He is my salvation.

Verse: The Lord hath chastened and corrected me; but He has not given me over unto death.

Lesson from the 1st Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy

(c. 1, v. 15-17)

Timothy, my child, this is a doctrine of our faith, which must be professed by all believers: Jesus Christ came into the world to save all sinners. I know, I am the worst of them all. But I found mercy for this very reason: Jesus Christ wanted to manifest all his long suffering to me first. So, he singled me out as a typical example, in order to encourage those, who in the future would believe in him and inherit everlasting life.

Honor and glory to the only God, the immortal, invisible, and omniscient King of all the ages, forever and ever. Amen.

1 Тимофію 1:15-17

Ось істина, яка гідна повного і безсумнівного сприйняття: Христос Ісус прийшов у цей світ, аби спасти грішників, а я — найгірший з грішників. Саме з цієї причини мені було дано милість, щоб, використавши мене, найгіршого з грішників, Христос Ісус зміг би показати Своє довготерпіння, як приклад для тих, хто пізніше повірив би у Нього й отримав вічне життя. Цареві вічному, невмирущому й невидимому, єдиному Богу честь і Слава на віки вічні. Амінь.

Alleluia

v. The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The Name of the God of Jacob protect you!
v. Save the king, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

Gospel According to St. Luke

(с. 18, v. 35-43)

At that time, as Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what it meant. They told him : " Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he cried aloud : " Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me !"

Those who were in front reproved him and told him to be quiet, but he cried out all the more: "Son of David, have mercy on me I" So Jesus stopped and ordered him to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him : "What do you want me to do for you ?" He answered : "Master, let me receive my sight."

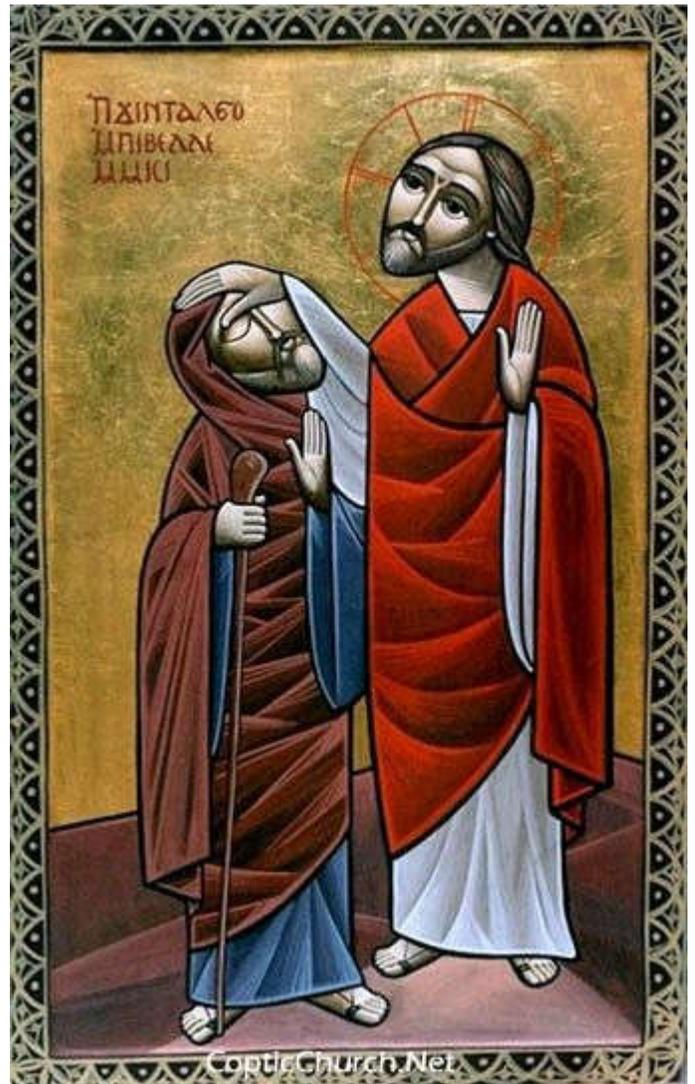
Jesus said to him: "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you." He regained his sight immediately and followed him, glorifying God. All the people who saw this miracle gave praise to God.

Від Луки 18:35-43

Коли Ісус наближався до Єрихону, при дорозі сидів сліпий жебрак. Почувши, що повз нього проходить натовп, жебрак запитав людей, що трапилося. І йому відповіли, що це пройшов Ісус із Назарета. І тоді сліпий голосно вигукнув: «Ісусе, Сину Давидів, змилуйся наді мною!» Ті з натовпу, що йшли попереду, почали докоряти йому, щоб він замовк. Але він гукав ще голосніше: «Сину Давидів, змилуйся наді мною!»

Тоді Ісус зупинився й сказав: «Підведіть його до Мене!» Коли той підійшов, Ісус запитав його: «Що ти хочеш, щоб Я зробив для тебе?» Жебрак сказав: «Господи, я знову хочу бачити».

Тоді Він промовив: «Твій зір негайно повернеться. Віра твоя врятувала тебе». І тієї ж миті жебрак прозрів. Він подався вслід за Ісусом, славлячи Бога, та всі, хто бачили це, почали славити Бога.



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:

Steve Sivulich	Jane Allred	Teresa Stacy	Laila Bechtle
Maria Warholak	Ronda Bickel	Claudia Losego	Sally Sally
Peter Zinski	Pearl Homyrda	Dolores Wachnowsky	Pat Dorning
Kathryn Ostaffy	Ann Sekelik	Pamela Graham	Rebecca White
Joann Klein	Shelley Cameron	Jocelyn Barner	Deborah Schricker
Michael Klein	James White	Theresa Zatezalo	Jack Schricker
Dan Rosga	Dylan G	Olga Cherniavska	Sarah Dorning
Fr. John Haluszczak	Pani Anne Haluszczak	Nick Worobny	Gerald
Fr. Victor Wronskyj	Fr. Philip Nixon	Khouria Theodora Nixon	Michele Roberts
Fr. Stephen Hutnick	Karsten Scott	Jeff Mills	Kay Stevens
Fr. George Bazylevsky	Dobr. Oksana Bazylevsky	Shaun McAdams	

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

Name Days

Feb. 1 St. Mark of Ephesus

Fr. Mark Swindle, Mark Gazella

Feb 2 St. Inna

Inna Holovatiuk

Feb 3 St. Maximus the Confessor

Max Rozum, Maksim Shcherbatyuk

Feb 6 St Xenia of Rome- Oksana Aleksandrov

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Feb. 1 Michael Klein

Feast Days of:

Feb. 1 St. Mark of Ephesus

Feb. 3 Martyr Agnes

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

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

Pray for our Catechumens

Andie Yorita

Pray for our parishioners in vocational studies

Pray for the newly departed servants of God

Rose Zalenchak



- **SOUPER BOWL:** Last year at our Parishes first ever Souper Bowl Soup Contest we raised \$411.00 towards the National UOL Fundraising efforts for St. Andrews Society. During the 73rd Annual UOL Convention this past summer, the UOL presented St. Andrew’s Society with the proceeds from the Souper Bowl fundraisers held. With 20 parishes participating in the Souper Bowl Sunday event, the UOL raised \$10,000.00 that provided to St. Andrew’s this worthy cause! Please consider buying some Soup on Sunday February 7 2021 to support our efforts this year as you may well expect, funds are low. Thank you as always for your support! To learn more about St. Andrews Society and how our Ukrainian Orthodox Church supports them visit www.uocofusa.org/st_andrew_uos
- **COLLEGE KIDS** As part of the Sr. UOL’s **Seminarians Plus Club**, we send notes of encouragement, along with a small gift card, to our college students every month during the academic year. If you would like to participate, we are collecting small denominations of gift cards, \$5 or \$10, to send each month. We have 4 college students this semester. Last semester we sent Amazon, Walmart, Panera Bread, and one month, gift cards to their favorite fast food place. If you are interested in supporting our young adults, please email Sue Leis at sueleis94@gmail.com or calling her at 412.216.3346. Thank you for your continued support of our outreach programs!
- **ST MATRONA MEETING:** There will be a sisterhood meeting on Sunday, February 7th, following the liturgy. Please attend as we will hold elections and plan for ways to stay active in our community in the coming months. Join our funniest mask contest! wear it to the meeting and win a cool prize !
- **MEMORY ETERNAL:** Our prayers and sympathies go out to the family of Cecelia Pysh 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
- **BASKET RAFFLE:** The UOL Convention Committee is sponsoring a Basket Raffle. We will try to have a basket raffled off each month. This month we have some Valentine's Day goodies for you and your loved one. This basket will be raffled off on St. Valentine's Day, February 14th, 2021. Tickets are \$1 each or 10 for \$5. See Matushka Laryssa or John Stasko to get your tickets. Proceeds go to the 75th Annual UOL Convention being sponsored by our parish in 2022
- **LENTEN PRAYER PALS:** The UOL is going to be sponsoring the “Lenten Prayer Pals” for Great Lent! As sign-up and distribution of prayer pals will be a little and take a little longer, we are starting early and asking everyone who is interested to please **sign up by Sunday, February 28, 2021!** Great Lent starts March 15, 2021 and we would like to have information back to everyone by Sunday, March 14, 2021.



Sue Leis is heading the program up and you can email her at sueleis94@gmail.com or call or text her **412.216.3346** to participate. Sue will also have Cindy Haluszczak as an in person contact helper at Divine Liturgy Services on Wednesday’s and Sunday’s. You can provide your name to Cindy at those services if you wish to participate in the Lenten Prayer Pal Program. Please let them know which way you want to receive your prayer pal notification once assigned; in-person, email, mail, text.

Once we have everyone’s name, a random number program will be run (like pulling name out of basket) to line everyone up with your partner. Sue will make up our normal Prayer Pal Cards with the prayer and names for distributions. Sue and Cindy will distribute them to you as you indicated when you signed up.

We thank you for your participation in the Lenten Prayer Pal Program!

Stewardship

THANK YOU FOR THESE RECENT DONATIONS:

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

February 7	Michael & Michele Kapeluck
February 14	Olesya Zelenyak
February 21	Pat Dorning
February 28	John & Shirley Stasko



St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church
220 Mansfield Blvd | Carnegie PA 15106
orthodoxcarnegie@gmail.com
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Souper Bowl Sunday "To Go" *Sunday February 7 2021*

Purchase at the Parish Hall after Divine Liturgy

*Proceeds benefit St. Andrews
Ukrainian Orthodox Society*



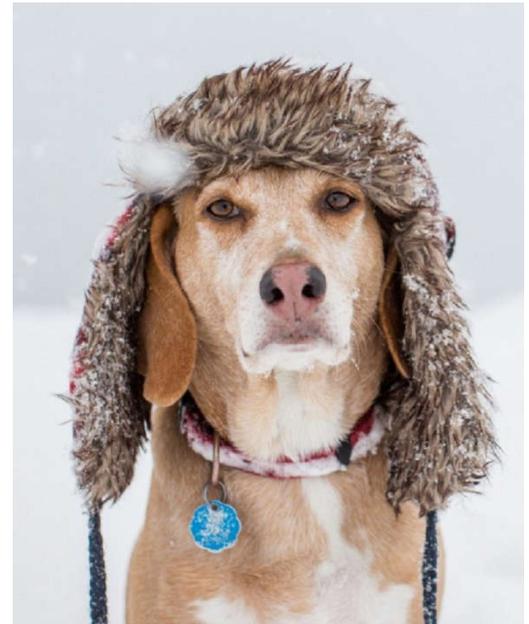
\$5 a Quart
Green Borscht
Chicken Noodle
Cabbage Vegetable Soup
Potato Soup

Sponsored by the Sr. UOL Chapter
A project of the UOL of USA
Christian Caregiving and Missions

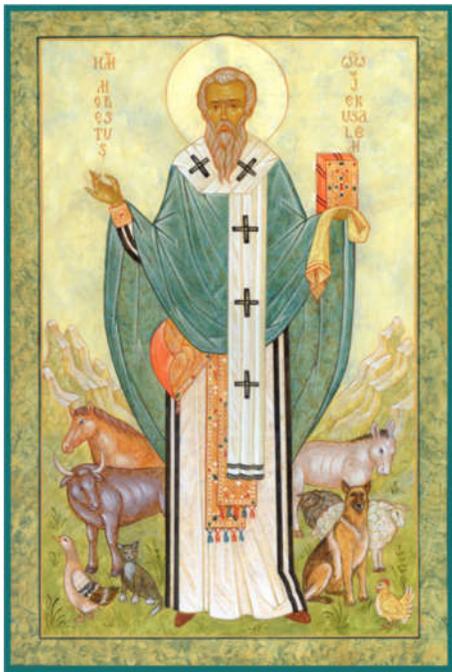


Help Our Furry Friends

Animals in need: with the cold weather on us and an increasing animal population in local shelters, the Staskos are collecting new or gently used supplies to take to local animal shelters to help them with an over load of our animal friends in shelters. Most shelters run off donations and in these COVID times donations are declining while abandoned animals are increasing at the shelters. We are collecting blankets, towels, pillows, bowls, dog and cat food or cleaning supplies like Clorox, brushes, brooms, trash bags etc. if you have any items that you are looking to get rid of and still in good condition please contact Shirley, Olesia or John and we will make arrangements to get them and store them. Once we have a large load we will distribute to the local animal shelters in and around Pittsburgh. Please remember our furry friends in these times. They can't speak for themselves so we need to remember to help them. John M. Stasko 412-304-1841



Prayer of Saint Modestos Protector & Healer of Animals



O Lord Jesus Christ my God, Who are merciful and All-good, Who in wisdom created every visible and invisible creature, Who pours out His compassions upon all that He has created, Who through Your all-good Providence foresees and troubles over for all Your creatures: bodiless, physical, rational, irrational, soul-bearing, soulless, from the first to the last. For nothing is not foreseen by You, neither is anything abandoned by You, the Creator and Foreseer of all. For You are He Who opens His hand, and fills all living things with goodness. You are He makes grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men. You are He Who once, through the herd of Israel, preserved them from above from the fatal wound of the first-born of the Egyptians. You are He Who, through the compassion of Your incarnation, deposed he who had the might of death: that is, the devil, and by Your death, You put death to death.

You are He Who, through myself Your unworthy servant, puts to death the serpent, that Your spring of water might not be corrupted. Those that drink from it, both the living and the dead, through Your life-giving power, you resurrect. And if a demon draws near to it, and prepares to make itself apparent, seize it, that it might never dare to approach the place in which, I the sinner, call upon Your name. To You, therefore, I pray, O All-good Master and Creator of all, and I entreat You, the cause of all life, hearken to this my entreaty, and drive away every fatal sickness and danger from the oxen, horses, donkeys, mules, sheep, goats, bees, and any other

animals in true need to the life of Your servants who call upon You, the giver of every good, and of my name. And grant, O Lord, to all those who celebrate my name, and with faith hasten to my relics, permanent peace, multiplication of animals, uncorrupted wheat, wine and oil, and above all, remission of sins, health of bodies, and eternal salvation of souls.

Yes, O Lord Jesus Christ, for the descendants from Your very loins, grant compassion on the suffering animals, whose herd is being afflicted by the sickle of death. And not having any word besides bleating, and bitter and random noises, in Your mercy, take away their passion and suffering. For if You even call rational beings to this sympathy: "A righteous man has compassion upon his animals", as is written, how much more do You show compassion on these, Who are their Creator and Foreseer? For You, O compassionate, preserved the animals in the Ark, as Your goodness and compassions won out. That by the wellness and multiplication of the oxen, and the remaining four-legged animals, the earth might be worked, and fruit might be harvested, and Your servants who call upon my name might be preserved without any corruption, and partake of their very harvest. And that these, having all things that are necessary, might be increased in every good work, and glorify You, Who grants every good thing. And grant me me also, Your servant and most-fervent entreater, the honor of Your all-governing Kingdom, for to You belong all glory, honor and worship, with Your beginningless Father, and Your All-Holy and good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

FESTAL ICON PROJECT

Parishioners and Friends of Saints Peter and Saint Paul's Parish in Carnegie, PA.

Enclosed is the 16-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 completed multiple icons 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

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

Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple

Feast of St. Nicholas

Feast of Saint Andrew

Sponsored ICONS

Beheading of St John, the Forerunner

Triumph of Orthodoxy

Started ICONS

Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple

Completed ICONS

Nativity of Our Lord

Annunciation

Prodigal Son Sunday

Entrance into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

"Pantanassa: icon of the Theotokos

Raising of Lazarus

Pascha (Descent into Hades)

Theophany

Protection of the Theotokos

Myrrh Bearers Sunday

Baptism of Ukraine

Exaltation of the Cross



If you would like to pledge or sponsor an ICON or if you have any questions on this project please reach out to Father John, Michael Kapeluck or Howard West.

Thank you again for your continued support of Saints Peter and Saint Paul's Parish in Carnegie, PA

Orthodox Buzz Words 2: “God willing”

Fr. Edward Rommen

The next Orthodox catchphrase that I want to take up is the often-heard refrain, “if God wills,” or more often just “God willing.” This phrase and its many variants are so numerous that compiling a catalog of examples would require more space than we have allotted to us here. So, consider just a few examples:

Have a safe trip home. OK, God willing.

Get a good night’s sleep, I’ll try, God willing.

I hope you find a suitable place to live. Me too. I am sure I will if God wills it.

Let’s meet tomorrow at noon. God willing. That sounds good.

Pray for me. OK, God willing.

Do you plan to be at the Liturgy tomorrow? I suppose, God willing of course.

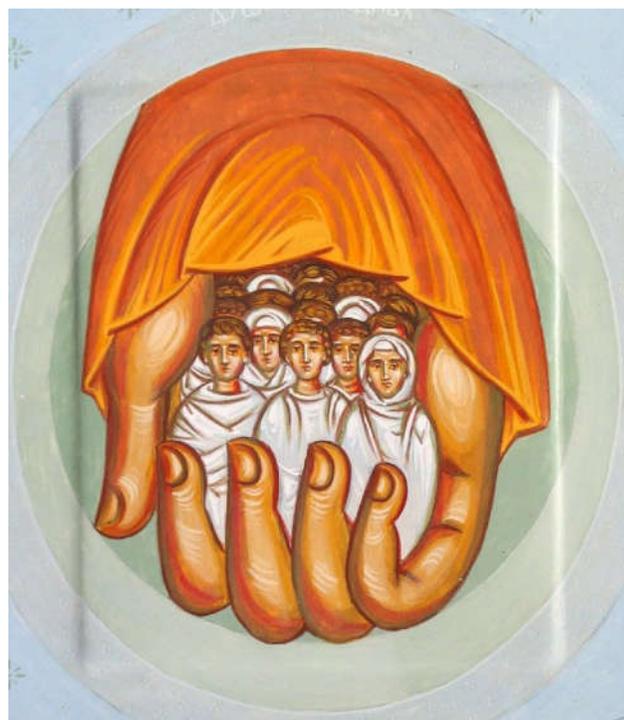
Will you be here to help the choir at tomorrow’s Liturgy, Yes, God willing.

In fairness to those who have become accustomed to using this phrase, we have to admit that the idea behind it appears to be solidly anchored in Scripture and Tradition. That may be one reason why its use comes so easily. But, that may also explain why it is a bit more difficult to unmask any potential misuse. Those who make frequent and sometimes mindless use of this phrase can easily tell themselves that it is a perfectly biblical and or proper thing to say. Certainly, at least on the surface of it, the phrase seems positive, or at least harmless, and maybe even downright pious.

Yet, I get the impression that something is wrong, that at some level the whole idea of God’s love and providence is being taken for granted, being trivialized, repurposed, even abused. In so many of our daily exchanges, it seems to be nothing more than an occasional punctuation mark. That gives me the impression that it is being devalued and not being used as an intentional or deliberate expression of biblical truth. It is as though this phrase has become nothing more than a religiously fashionable thing to say, a verbal fad designed to project an aura of piety. While it would certainly be unfair to ascribe any negative motives to those in the habit of using the phrase, we can evaluate the practice by reminding ourselves of the underlying biblical teachings that give rise to the phrase.

That teaching is known as the doctrine of Divine Providence. With the help of this teaching, we are able to develop a good understanding of how God and human beings each play a role in the unfolding events of everyday life. To begin with we are taught that the world was created by God out of nothing. As such, it has a powerful and positive power, namely God’s will, at its very foundation, which means that the world is in some sense indestructible (Ps 93:1) and that its continued existence, its preservation, is already given, secured by the act of creation. Clearly the world exists as a result of God’s creative will. But, His relation to the world is not exhausted by His calling it into being. His continued guidance is necessary, and it is God’s constant intervention that actually controls and facilitates future outcomes. In that sense, it is reasonable to believe that everything that happens is contingent on or in keeping with God’s will.

Yet, because human beings have been created with a limited free will, the nature of God’s dealings with the world involve, of necessity, a kind of mutual interplay or *synergism*. Human beings reflect the divine image in, among other ways, their freedom to make choices and translate those choices into concrete action, that is, to self-actualize. This is accomplished by the free exercise of God-given faculties such as rationality, love, and creativity, whereby



the individual is able to choose what she does, says, or thinks. In that sense, it is reasonable to believe that human beings, even as they are subject to the will of God, can and do have some impact on and responsibility for their own destiny. Providence is not to be understood as the absolute imposition of extra-creational force, but rather as the living and dynamic divine-human interaction that takes place within the world and according to its laws.

This, then, is this dynamic and synergistic nature of divine Providence upon which the phrase “if God wills” is based. Scripture is teaching us to hold divine sovereignty and human responsibility and freedom in a kind of creative tension. It is God helping us do what He has given us the freedom to do within the context of His will for the world. Disrupting that balance leads to significant distortions of the teaching and I think that is being done in three ways.

To begin with, there are some who’s use of the phrase essentially eliminates human responsibility and falsely overstates the role of divine providence. In this case, providence is reduced to a kind of fatalism, an almost Kismet-like approach to life, in which every detail of life is intentionally and actively pre-determined by God’s will. This renders human agency and responsibility irrelevant. While this might appear to be an affront to our freedom, it does provide a convenient excuse for avoiding responsibility for our own actions and/or for blaming God for the (negative) consequences of our own inaction. For example, during the current pandemic I have heard a number of believers say that they will take no precautions against the virus and that if they get sick it is simply God’s will. If they die they die. It is what it is. A convenient side benefit of this approach is that it allows them to avoid some of the more odious aspects of resisting the illness, such as masks and any restrictions placed on their freedoms (social distancing, meeting group size). Moreover, it gets them off the hook if they should infect, sicken, and even kill someone else. It is, after all, all God’s will.

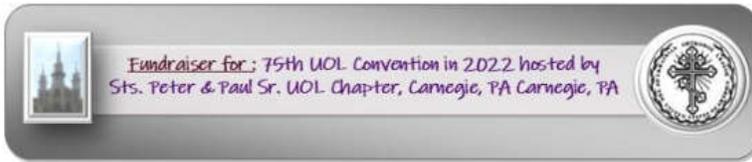
Similarly, if divine will is falsely absolutized, some will come to see it as both inexorable and unknowable. In that case, all motivation for participating in the divine-human synergy is lost and disappears in a vast sea of supposed ignorance. If someone was asked to commit themselves to, let us say, a meeting, the response in this case would be “God willing,” which translates into “I have no idea if God wants me to meet with you or not. We will see. But for now I cannot commit.” Then, if they don’t come, it was obviously not God’s will.

The one problem with this feigned ignorance is that much of what God wills for us has already been clearly revealed in the Holy Scriptures. We cannot, for example, play agnostic in the face of the immorality, corruption, and chaos so evident in our socio-political system justifying indifference, tolerance, or even reluctant engagement with a rather flippant “I cannot pass judgement. God is in charge. Everything must be his will.” No! not everything is His will (dishonesty, adultery, greed?) and it simply won’t do for believers to look the other way, do nothing and claim they just don’t know what God might have in mind. A trite “God wills” does not release us because He has revealed His will to us.

Finally, there is one other abuse of this doctrine of Providence that deserves mention. In this case, it is human desire and agency that is absolutized and for all intents and purposes equated with the will of God. Many today are so sure of their own right to have, express, and act on an opinion that they assume that whatever they say or do is given a de facto stamp of divine volitional approval. Whatever they say is considered to be truth. Whatever they do is seen as a reflection of divine will. So, when a person like this says, “God willing” it translates into “I willing. I want to do it. I am going to do it.” These individuals claim that they determine every detail of God’s will. They know when to override the clear teaching of Scripture, when to see tyrants as divinely chosen instruments. Using this formula the limits of what human beings can claim is God’s will is limited only by the vast inventiveness of human beings.

As we have seen this truly biblical idea can and is often trivialized by careless use and by being repurposed as an excuse for inaction or a claim to more knowledge and authority than we have. I am not suggesting that every time a believed uses this phrase it is being abused. But, I have become a bit suspicious by its very frequent use and simply want us to remain biblical and be decidedly intentional when we use the idea.

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/growingthechurch/orthodox-buzz-words-2-god-willing/>



Orders Must Be Received by February 11, 2021!



You can give your order and payment (cash or check) to John Stasko

OR

Mail your order with payment (check) to the church at address below.

Make checks out to: 75th UOL Convention.

<i>Spaghetti Dinner w/ Marinara Sauce \$11.00.</i> Includes Spaghetti, Marinara sauce, salad bowl with Italian Dressing Packet, roll and butter, Valentine's Day Cookie	Quantity	Item Total	TOTAL
Regular Meal			
<i>Gluten Free Meal</i>			
<i>Spaghetti Dinner w/ Meatballs \$12.00.</i> Includes Spaghetti, 2 Meatballs, sauce, salad bowl with Italian Dressing Packet, roll and butter, Valentine's Day Cookie	Quantity	Item Total	TOTAL
Regular Meal			
<i>Gluten Free Meal</i>			
<i>Sweet Specials Extras</i>	Quantity	Item Total	TOTAL
Chocolate Covered Pretzel Rods (2-pack) \$3.00			
Chocolate Covered Oreos (2-pack) \$3.00			
Chocolate Covered Rice Krispy Treats (2-pack) \$3.00			
50/50 Raffle Ticket ONE entry \$1.00			
50/50 Raffle Ticket FIVE entries \$3.00			

Name	
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Please see www.orthodoxcarnegie.org/uol2022fundraisingevents for complete details.
 Mail orders to: Sts. Peter & Paul UOC / 75th UOL Spaghetti PO Box 835 Carnegie, PA 15106

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220 Mansfield Blvd | Carnegie PA 15106
orthodoxcarnegie@gmail.com
www.orthodoxcarnegie.org



Cooking Up Some Love

Spaghetti Dinner

"To Go"

Sat. Feb. 13, 2021

Pick-up 4 to 7 pm



Pre-Order Required by Feb. 11, 2021

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Double Fun: 50/50 Raffle !!

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Fundraiser for: 75th UOL Convention in 2022 hosted by
Sts. Peter & Paul Sr. UOL Chapter, Carnegie, PA Carnegie, PA



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Calendar of Events

February 7 Souper Bowl Sunday To Go

February 13 Spaghetti Dinner To Go

March 28 53rd Pysanky Sale

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 th parish hall. **YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BRING ANYTHING!!!** However, bring a Friend!!!

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.

Call 276-9718 to schedule a donation.

Parish Website/Social Media

To Submit items for publication on website & social media

>email any information to be included on the Website, Facebook or Instagram to Parish Technology.

If you have any fliers or jpgs please include them, but not necessary.

E-mail Technology at technology@orthodoxcarnegie.org

Please indicate the time frame you would like items posted to website and/or social media.

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February 14 _____ Sponsored
February 21 _____ Sponsored
February 28 _____

March 7 _____ Sponsored
March 14 _____
March 21 _____
March 28 _____

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Ukrainian Orthodox Church
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