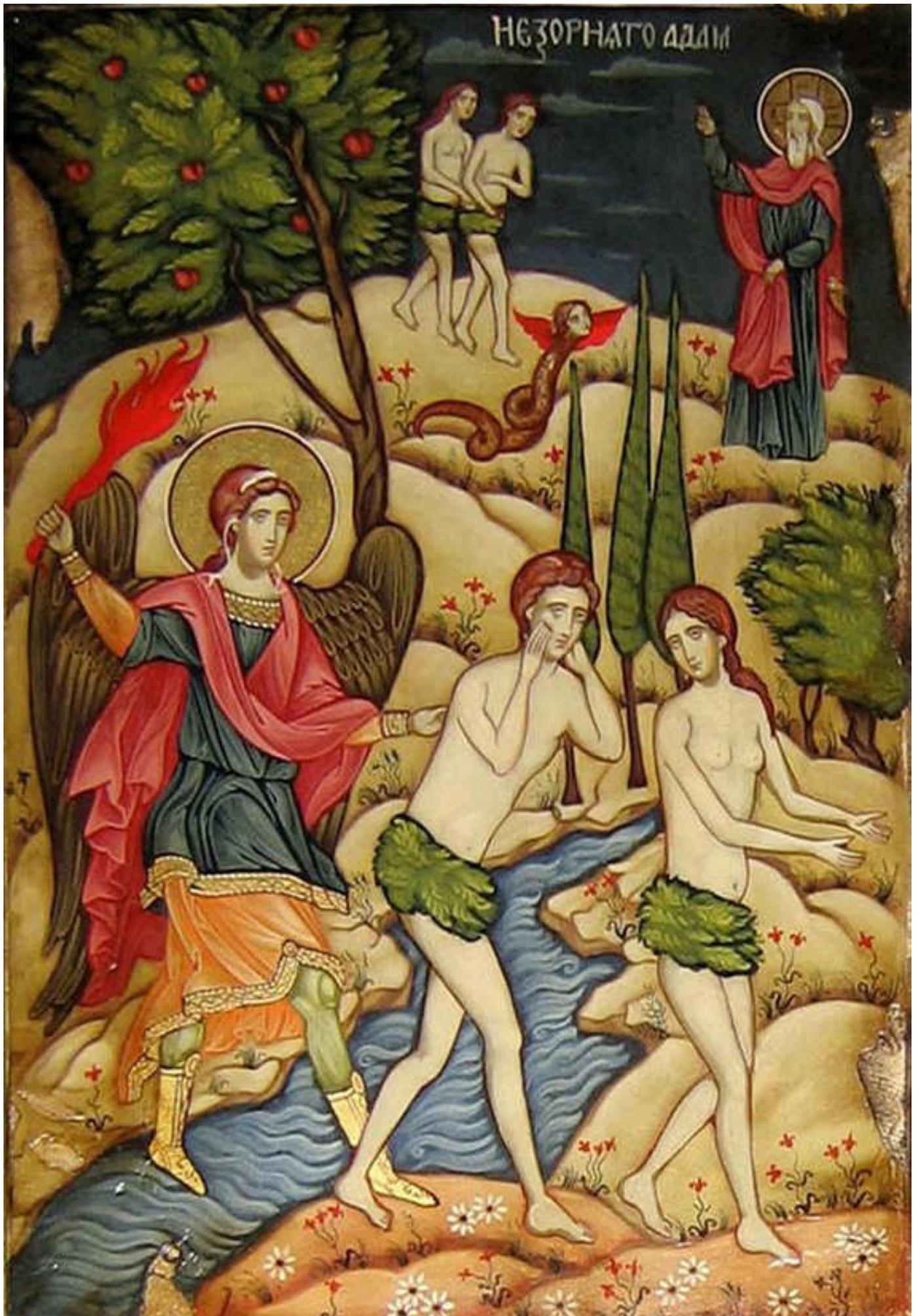
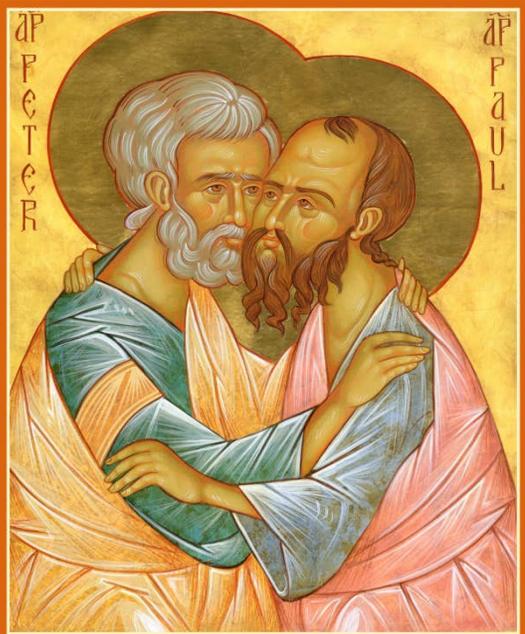


НЕЗОРНАТО АДЛИ





St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox G.C. Church

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

Rev. Fr. John Charest

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

Deacon Evan O'Neil

Parish Hall: 412- 276-9718

President: Howard West 724-910-9627

www.orthodoxcarnegie.org

MARCH 10, 2019

SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH

DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 AM, TONE 8
CHEESEFARE SUNDAY, OF FORGIVENESS
ST. TARASIOS

ROM. 13: 11 - 14 : 4 ; MT 6 : 14 - 21

LITANY FOR NICHOLAS & PEARL PREGNAR
PARASTAS IN MEMORY OF SYLVIA ONUFREY

MONDAY 11 TH	6:30 PM GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE
TUESDAY 12 TH	6:30 PM GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE
WEDNESDAY 13 TH	6:30 PM GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE
THURSDAY 14 TH	6:30 PM GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE
FRIDAY 15 TH	6:30 PM PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY
SATURDAY 16 TH	9:00AM DIVINE LITURGY, ST. THEODORE SATURDAY 6:00 PM VESPERS

SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH

DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 AM, TONE 1
TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY- PROCESSION OF ICONS
ST. GERASIMOS OF JORDAN

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

LITANY FOR JACOB, ANNA HOYSAN FAMILIES; ZACHARY, MARY
CHAYKA FAMILIES; JOHN, JULIA PASTORAK; PETER, JOSEPH, JOHN, LOUIS
HOYSAN, MILDRE GUBEY

PARASTAS IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM & JUANITA BIRCKBICHLER &
HOWARD SR. & ANNA WEST

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY:

JOHN & SHIRLEY STASKO IN HONOR OF OLESIA ON HER 28TH
BIRTHDAY

MNOHAYA LITA! MANY BLESSED YEARS!

VICTOR & NATALIE ONUFREY IN MEMORY OF SYLVIA ONUFREY ON
THE 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HER FALLING ASLEEP.

VICHNAYA PAMYAT MEMORY ETERNAL

2018 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 молитися 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.Матвії 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 дотримування вічного вчення нашого Господа наблизить нас один до одного Богу

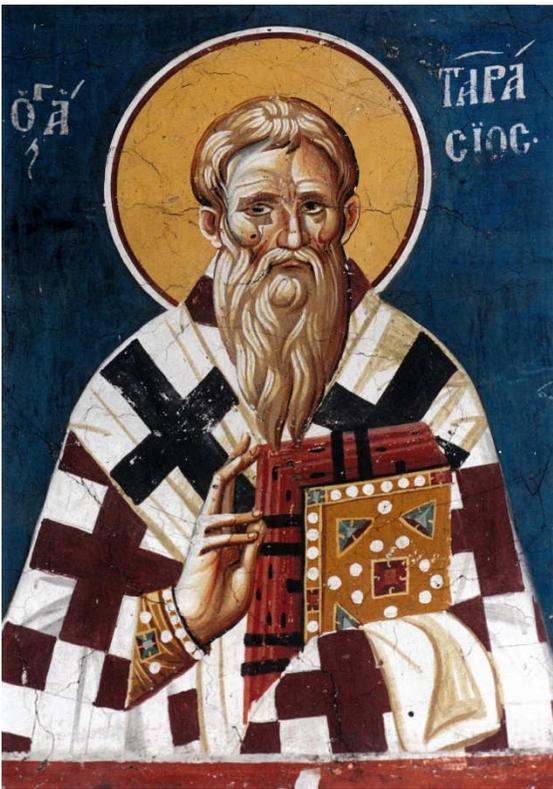
ST. TARASIOS ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

TROPARION - TONE 3

You shone forth as a light of the Spirit,
adorned with an exemplary life and clothed in hierarchical vesture.
You stilled the turbulence of heresy and became a pillar and
foundation of the Church, which praises your struggles, holy Father
Tarasius.

KONTAKION - TONE 3

You illumined the Church with Orthodox doctrine and taught all to
venerate and honor the precious precious image of Christ. You
vanquished the godless godless doctrine of the iconoclasts.
Therefore we cry to you: "Rejoice, wise Father Tarasius."



Saint Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople was of illustrious lineage. He was born and raised in Constantinople, where he received a fine education. He was rapidly promoted at the court of the emperor Constantine VI Porphyrogenitos (780-797) and Constantine's mother, the holy Empress Irene, and the saint attained the rank of senator.

During these times the Church was agitated by the turmoil of the Iconoclast disturbances. The holy Patriarch Paul although he had formerly supported Iconoclasm, later repented and resigned his office. He withdrew to a monastery, where he took the schema. When the holy Empress Irene and her son the emperor came to him, St Paul told them that the most worthy successor to him would be St Tarasius (who at this time was still a layman). Tarasius refused for a long time, not considering himself worthy of such high office, but he then gave in to the common accord on the condition, that an Ecumenical Council be convened to address the Iconoclast heresy.

Proceeding through all the clerical ranks in a short while, St Tarasius was elevated to the patriarchal throne in the year 784. In the year 787 the Seventh Ecumenical Council was convened in the city of Nicea, with Patriarch Tarasius presiding, and 367 bishops attending. The veneration of holy icons was confirmed at the council. Those bishops who repented of their iconoclasm, were again received by the Church.

St Tarasius wisely governed the Church for twenty-two years. He led a strict ascetic life. He spent all his money on God-pleasing ends, feeding and giving comfort to the aged, to the impoverished, to widows and orphans, and on Holy Pascha he set out a meal for them, and he served them himself. The holy Patriarch fearlessly denounced the emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitos when he slandered his spouse, the empress Maria, the granddaughter of St Philaretos the Merciful, so that he could send Maria to a monastery, thus freeing him to marry his own kinswoman. St Tarasius resolutely refused to dissolve the marriage of the emperor, for which the saint fell into disgrace. Soon, however, Constantine was deposed by his own mother, the Empress Irene.

St Tarasius died in the year 806. Before his death, devils examined his life from the time of his youth, and they tried to get the saint to admit to sins that he had not committed. "I am innocent of that of which you accuse me," replied the saint, "and you falsely slander me. You have no power over me at all." Mourned by the Church, the saint was buried in a monastery he built on the Bosphorus. Many miracles took place at his tomb

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

TROPARION TO THE RESURRECTION TONE 8

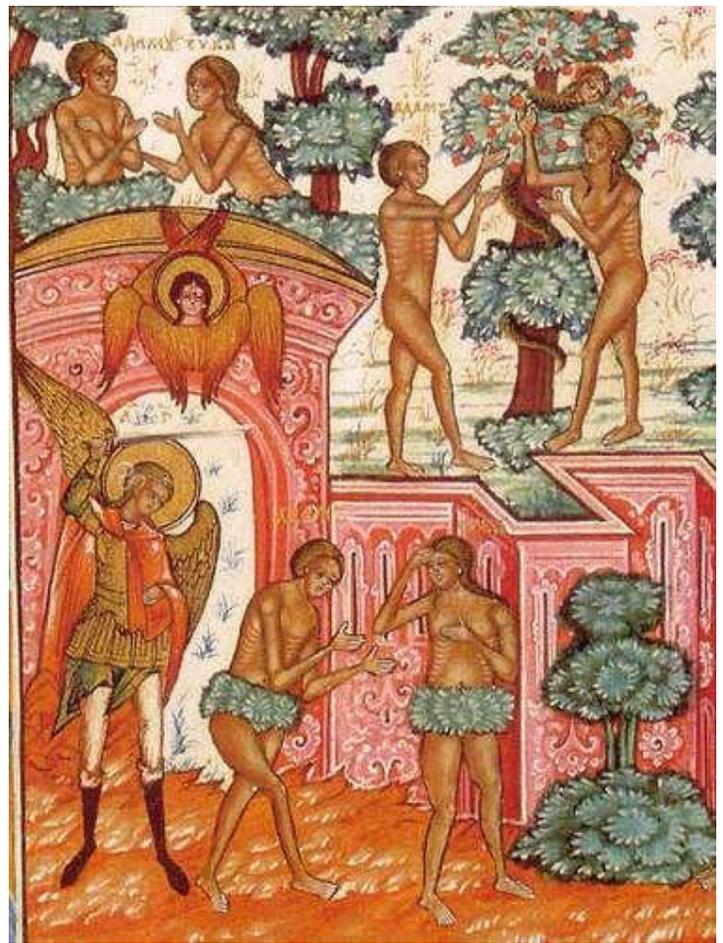
Thou didst descend from on high, O merciful One! Thou didst endure the three day burial to free us from our suffering! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

KONTAKION FOR CHEESEFARE- 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 FOR THE RESURRECTION TONE 8

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!



PROKIMON

Pray ye and render thanks unto the Lord our God.
Verse: In Jewry is God known, His name is great in His people.

Sunday of Forgiveness- Cheesefare
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 заздросках. 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, в. 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."

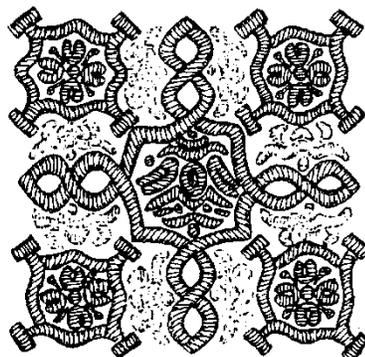
"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, your heart will be also."

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:

Metropolitan Antony	Tetiana Kozak	Rose Zinski	Pamela Partridge	Reggie Warford
Fr. John Nakonachny	Jane Allred	Sarah Dorning	Sharon Welsh	Peter Zinski
PM Maryann Ozlanski	Pearl Homyrda	Kathryn Ostaffy	Jackson Janosek	James Horowitz
Stephen Sheptak	Max Rozum	Willie Haluszczak	Mark Host	Joe Leis
Elissa Lopez	Irene Palahunik	Mary Ellen Heitzman	Patty Valentino	Jennifer Marley
Dave Harrison	Sam Jarovich	Christopher	Olha Cherniavska	Rose Zalenchak
Tim Cromchak	Andrew Brennan	Jabrell	Angie Zatezalo	Helen Wilwert
Eva Stasko	Penny T.	Ann F.	Steven Smyczek	Joanne Klein
Patty Spotti	Steve Sivulich	Pat Dorning	Joe Smajda	Michael Klein
Shirley Neal	Deborah Schricker	Jack Schricker	Steve Wachnowsky	Lynda West

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

Birthdays

March 10 Olesia Stasko

Feast Days of:

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

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

Pray for our Catechumens

Pray for our parishioners in vocational studies

Deacon Cliff O'Neil, , Ethan Nix



- **CHAREST FAMILY FUNDRAISER:** The Parish Council is hosting a spaghetti dinner at the Church hall on Saturday, March 16 from 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM. We will be serving a spaghetti dinner in order to help raise funds to cover the cost of bringing three Ukrainian orphans, previously hosted by the Charest Family, Viktoria, Ivanka, and Nestor, over from Ukraine to spend the summer with Fr. John, Matushka Laryssa, and Sebastian. We're offering spaghetti with your choice of marinara or alfredo and clam sauce, salad, rolls, and drinks. There will also be a bake sale for dessert. The cost is a freewill donation and all proceeds go to cover the costs of bringing the children over from Ukraine to spend the summer. If you can't make it to the dinner please consider donating to this cause; hosting provides orphaned children an opportunity to live with a loving family and learn life skills and about healthy relationships. Both monetary donations or bake sale goods are helpful for this event. Donations can be made by cash or check. Checks can be made out to St.s Peter and Paul UOC. Please come down to the hall and visit with friends and family, learn about the ministry of orphan hosting, and share a delicious meal. Take out meals are available too. Vespers will still be served at 6:00 PM during the fundraiser. We hope to see everyone on Saturday. For any questions please see John or Shirley Stasko.
- **FUNDRAISER BAKE SALE:** Calling all bakers! We will be having a bake sale at the Spaghetti Fundraiser. If you can bake something please let Natalie Turicik know.
- **DATE CHANGE:** Please note that the Pyrohi (pierogies) preparation for the Pysanky Sale Kitchen has been changed to Monday, March 25 from the previously announced date. Please see the revised Kitchen Workers Schedule in this Bulletin and mark your calendars accordingly.
- **PASTOR VISITS:** If you, or someone you know, are ill please inform Fr. John so that he may bring Holy Communion and anoint the sick with Holy Oil. The sacraments are not only for those who lay in hospitals but for those who, due to illness, are unable to come to church. "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5:14
frjohn.charest@aol.com 847-910-7120

KITCHEN WORKERS SCHEDULE
SPRING 2019

Mar 25, Monday	7:30 am	Potato Prep (100 lbs) plus 2 batches pyrohi (pierogies) NO ORDERS – ALL FOR PYSANKY SALE KITCHEN
April 8, Monday	9:00 am	Cabbage preparation (for holupchi)
April 9, Tuesday	9:00 am	Holupchi Rolling
Apr 12, Friday	8:00 am	Paska Baking
May 13, Monday	7:30 am	Potato Prep (100 lbs) plus 2 batches pyrohi (pierogies)

February Coffee Hour Schedule

March 17 Pot Luck Lenten Lunch, Victor & Natalie Onufrey, Oksana Aleksandsrov
March 24 Deacon Evan & Pani Alice
March 31 Bonnie Reinhart, Theresa Zatezalo

Pysanky Writing Schedule

March 10 Parish Hall after coffee hour
March 17 Parish Hall after coffee hour
March 24 Parish Hall after coffee hour
March 31 Kapeluck House
April 7 Parish Hall after coffee hour

Pysanky Night Dinner Party

Please Join us for a fun evening of

Pysanky making and fellowship!

Dinner will be served; Pysanky dyes and candles are provided, as well as a limited number a kitskas and beeswax. Don't worry if you have never made pysanky; join us and learn how!

Where: The Turicik's House

32 South Vireo Drive

Mckees Rocks, PA 15136

When:

Tuesday, Mar 26

RSVP: 1 day before each event- Natalie Turicik 412-498-9995



SEMINARIANS PLUS CLUB

Our Senior UOL chapter has begun a new program this year. We have decided to have an outreach program to our Seminarians, our College Students, and our Military personnel. About four or five times a year, we will send these “Club” members a care package to brighten their day from our UOL chapter.

Because all nine of our Seminarians are from Ukraine and are so very far from home, our outreach to them is a little more involved. We

would like to have individuals or families “adopt” one of them for the year. They are far from home and their families, so they would really appreciate the surprises from time to time. It would be great to acknowledge their birthday, name day, holidays throughout the year. It could be a card, a little box of goodies, gift cards to local places, etc.

With Great Lent approaching, this would be a wonderful way of seeing Great Lent as opportunity, not as an imposition. There's more to Great Lent than avoiding certain foods—there are opportunities for prayer and charitable works that round out the fast. By praying for, and putting the needs of our Seminarians first, we can continue to grow in our faith. Please see Sue Leis after church if you are interested in our project. You do not need to belong to the UOL to participate. We welcome everyone to join us in our endeavors! If you can't take on the responsibility of “adopting” a Seminarian, but still wish to contribute somehow, we will periodically ask for specific donations to help out. In the future, we may ask for board games, movies, gift cards to different restaurants, etc. Please think about ways that you can help us to make this a success. Thanks for your support!



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

In support of
Charest Family Summer
Hosting



Where & When

Saturday
March 16, 2019
4pm to 7:30 pm

St. Peter & St. Paul
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
220 Mansfield Blvd
Carnegie, PA



Menu

Spaghetti, Marinara Sauce,
Clam Sauce, Salad,
Bread, Beverage

GLUTEN FREE MENU
AVAILABLE

Donation

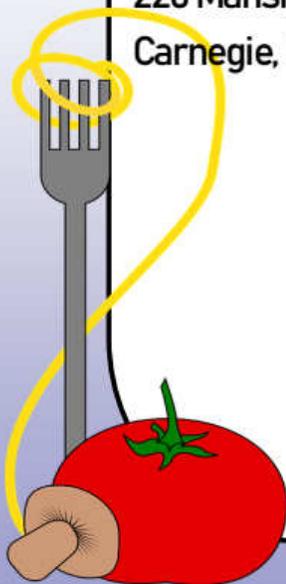
Free Will Offering Basket

Additional Information

orthodoxcarnegie@gmail.com
www.orthodoxcarnegie.org
412-276-9718
[https://www.facebook.com/
events/917733415280538/](https://www.facebook.com/events/917733415280538/)

Events

Dessert Bake Sale
Raffles
And more.....



Updated: 2.18.19

Transformed by Christ's Mercy: Homily for Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese Fare Sunday) in the Orthodox Church

February 18, 2018 · [Fr. Philip LeMasters](#)



Romans 13:11-14:4; Matthew 6:14-21

Today we stand right on the edge of Great Lent, for the weeks of preparation to follow our Savior to His Passion begin tomorrow. We have already been challenged to prepare with the Sundays of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee, the Prodigal Son, and the Last Judgment. Now it is the Sunday of Forgiveness, when we are reminded that we must forgive one another if we hope to receive God's forgiveness for our sins.

Every time we pray the Our Father, we say "and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Christ teaches in today's gospel lesson that "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." It is impossible, of course, to earn God's forgiveness or put Him in our debt by anything that we do. Before His infinite holiness, we stand in constant need of mercy and grace. At the same time, it is impossible to open ourselves to receive His mercy and grace if we do not extend the forgiveness of which we are capable to those who have wronged us.

If we ask for the Lord's forgiveness and refuse to forgive others, we are in the false position of those who want something for themselves but will not give it their neighbors. That is a form of selfishness that reflects a lack of love for those in whom we encounter Him every day of our lives. It is a form of idolatry in which we imagine that we are serving a false god who simply does our bidding rather than a Lord Who calls us to die to self as we share more fully in His life. Forgiveness is not some kind of commodity that can be hoarded greedily. It is ultimately a divine energy of the Lord in Whom we participate by grace. If we refuse to forgive others, we refuse to be healed, transformed, and illumined like an iron left in the fire of the divine glory. We refuse to be truly in communion with Christ; indeed, we refuse Him. But if we forgive, even as we acknowledge the imperfection of our efforts to control our thoughts, words, and deeds toward those who have offended us, we open ourselves in humility to become more like our Savior in holiness by the power of His grace.

Like the rest of the Christian life, forgiveness is not simply a matter of how we feel about God, our neighbors, or ourselves. It is not about whether thoughts of past wrongs or future fears pop into our heads. It is not about whether we particularly like someone else. Forgiveness occurs when our vision of those who have wronged us is clarified or restored such that we see them not in terms of past wrongs, but as those who bear the image and likeness of God. Only our inflamed passions keep us from seeing our neighbors this way, for pride tempts us to hold on to anger and judgment that quickly condemn anyone who has ever dared to cross us.

The "quarreling and jealousy" that St. Paul associates with "the works of darkness" will never end in our own souls if we do not find healing from such distorted desires. That process of healing is a way of speaking about putting "on the armor of light," of "put[ting] on the Lord Jesus Christ, and mak[ing] no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." "Flesh" in this sense refers to our corrupt humanity, enslaved to death and the war of the passions within us. Adam and Eve were cast from Paradise when they stripped themselves naked of the divine glory by their prideful disobedience. They diminished themselves to a life focused on

“mak[ing]..provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” We do not have to look very closely at our world or into our own souls in order to see that we have followed our first parents on a path out of Paradise. When their son Cain murdered his brother Abel, it became abundantly clear how powerful the passions are at destroying human relationships as God intended them to be, even within our own families.

If we are truly in Christ, the New Adam in Whom all the corruptions of the first Adam are set right, we must be in the processing of healing from the self-centered desires that separate us from Him and one another. The weeks of Lent provide us with profound opportunities to open even the darkest corners of our lives to His brilliant light. But no matter how strictly we fast, how fervently we pray, or how generously we give to the needy, we will be unable to receive God’s forgiveness if we do not forgive one another. That is the clear teaching of Christ in today’s gospel lesson.

What greater sign is there of our brokenness than how easily we offend, harm, and disregard one another? Indeed, we often enjoy doing so and come up with all kinds of reasons to justify hateful thoughts, words, and actions toward others. At Forgiveness Vespers this evening, we will personally bow before one another as we ask for and extend forgiveness to everyone in the parish. We begin our journey toward the deep mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection with humility and reconciliation. Since none of us has lived as faithfully as possible, we have all weakened one another spiritually, for we are members of one Body in Christ. Now is the time to grant to one another the forgiveness that we ask from the Lord as we prepare to follow Him to the ultimate manifestation of His forgiving love in the cross and empty tomb.

Instead of wasting time and energy by judging others or holding grudges this Lent, we must focus on participating as fully as possible in the restoration of the human person that Christ has brought to the world. Since we have put Him on in baptism, we must live in a way that reflects and reveals His mercy and blessing. The Lord is very clear about what this means: If we want forgiveness for our sins, we must forgive others for their offenses against us. The prodigal son had no claim to restoration as a son, and he knew that, but the overwhelming love of his father healed the deep wounds that the young man’s behavior had caused. If we want to open ourselves to the unfathomable mercy of our Heavenly Father, we must become channels of that same mercy to others, despite our unworthiness. If we are truly “partakers of the divine nature” by grace, our Lord’s forgiveness will become characteristic of who we are. (2 Pet. 1:4) Like an iron left in the fire takes on the qualities of the fire and conveys heat and light to other objects, those who truly share in Christ’s life will share what they have received with others, especially those they are tempted not to forgive.

Like prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, forgiveness requires a commitment of the will to do what is pleasing to God and is probably not immediately appealing to us. Like these other practices, forgiveness is a teacher of humility because it reveals our weakness. Like the healing of any passion, embracing forgiveness is a journey that begins with actions of thought, word, and deed that hardly seem sufficient to the task. God is gracious, however, and accepts the small acts of which we are capable. We cooperate with His grace as we do what we can to turn our attention away from the remembrance of past wrongs, to hold our tongues when we are tempted to remind people of their failings, and to say “I forgive you” even when we have a long way to go in fully embracing the meaning of those words.

That should not be surprising, of course, because forgiveness is our participation in God’s forgiveness. Before His infinite holiness, we cannot claim to have mastered forgiveness or to have accomplished anything simply by our own power. For us who are so accustomed to the darkness, it will be uncomfortable to open our eyes just a bit to the brilliant light. For us who are so addicted to our self-centered desires, it will seem impossible not to gratify them. But when we know our own weakness, then we will know how much we need His gracious strength, which conquers even the tomb. This Lent, let us open ourselves to the Lord’s grace by showing His mercy to others, especially those who have offended us. There is no other way to follow Christ to His Passion and the brilliant glory of His Kingdom.

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/easternchristianinsights/2018/02/18/transformed-christs-mercy-homily-forgiveness-sunday-cheese-fare-sunday-orthodox-church/>

Clean Monday” Here We Come!

Fr. Barnabas Powell

I was sitting right next to it! And then it went off! And I nearly jumped out of my skin. It was an alarm that let you know when someone was “breaking into the house.” I didn’t realize I was that close when they were going to test it and it scared me to death. But I guess that’s what an alarm is supposed to do: get your attention.

Nowadays, though, most alarms are just ignored. When I was a police officer, our department had to institute a fine system for businesses when their alarms went off and we responded to a “false alarm.” It was happening so often at some businesses that we simply began to ignore the alarms. That’s not very helpful.

What is true with alarms is also true in our lives when there doesn’t seem to be an effective way to shock someone’s life out of a dangerous pattern. We have multiple warnings on this or that package, all meant to warn us of health problems. We have good intentioned relatives “warning” us to avoid this or that relationship. We even have priests and preachers that warn us of spiritual dangers to our lives and yet, we sleep through the warnings.

Look at our lesson today in Joel (yep, “Joel.” He’s one of the minor prophets in the Old Testament) 2:12-26:

“Yet even now,” says the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. Who knows whether he will not turn and repent, and leave a blessing behind him, a cereal offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, “Spare thy people, O Lord, and make not thy heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” (Joel 2:12-17, please read the rest. You’ll really love it)

This Sunday is Forgiveness Sunday and we will step into Great Lent on our annual spiritual labor toward Pascha. So, how do we do Lent well? We do Lent well by not trying to do it on our own. We do Lent well by paying attention to the wisdom the Church gives us in all the tools provided to prepare us for this journey. And one of the main tools is the wake up call of Fasting! Fasting is tied closely to repentance because the heart of repentance is finally waking up to the wrong way of thinking in our lives that produces wrong actions, choice, and behaviors. And what makes them “wrong” isn’t some violation of a rule as much as it is a revelation of a lack of love for God and too focused a love on myself. So, what’s the remedy for unhealthy self-focus? Deprive the stomach of every little thing it wants! Learn to discipline my desires and to channel the power of desire towards a healthy spiritual life. The path to doing this is the gift of fasting and a purposeful Lent.

All too often it’s easy to miss the warnings in my life because my life, my soul, my mind is flooded with my own “voice.” The selfish wants drown out that “still, small voice” that is screaming at me that I am going down a wrong path. I am only going to wake up to those loving warnings if I stop the routine of spiritual deafness and listen to wisdom that calls me to another path.

Today, are you planning right now how you and your family will keep a spiritually profitable Great Lent? Have you gone through the frig and the pantry to make sure “Clean Monday” is really clean? Don’t let this beautiful alarm of Great Lent be ignored because you’ve heard it so often before. Step up to a more purposeful Orthodox life by hearing the call in your soul from your Church to approach with love and confidence the gateway of Great Lent on Forgiveness Sunday!

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/faithencouraged/2018/02/clean-monday-come/>



"And though every day a man lives may rightly be a day of repentance, yet is it in these days more becoming, more appropriate, to confess our sins, to fast, and to give alms to the poor; since in these days you may wash clean the sins of the whole year."

St. John Chrysostom

GREAT LENT

Retreats

GOD IS CALLING

...will you answer?

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

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

MAKING SPACE FOR GRACE IN EVERY MOMENT

Saturday, March 23, 2019

Tampa, Florida

Contact: Daria Pishko Komichak
firetreat@uolnj.org

DON'T JUST GO TO CHURCH, BE THE CHURCH

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Villa Maria, Pennsylvania

Contact Information:
ohiowpalentenretreat@gmail.com
(412)-565-9441

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Troy, New York

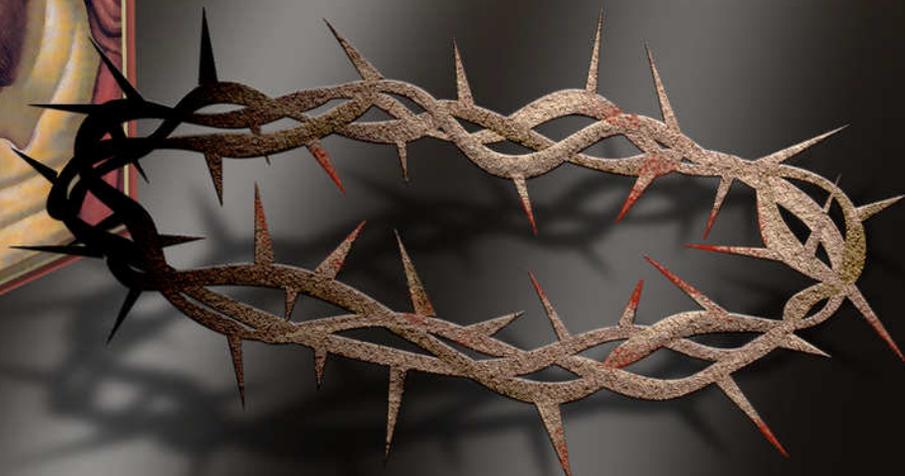
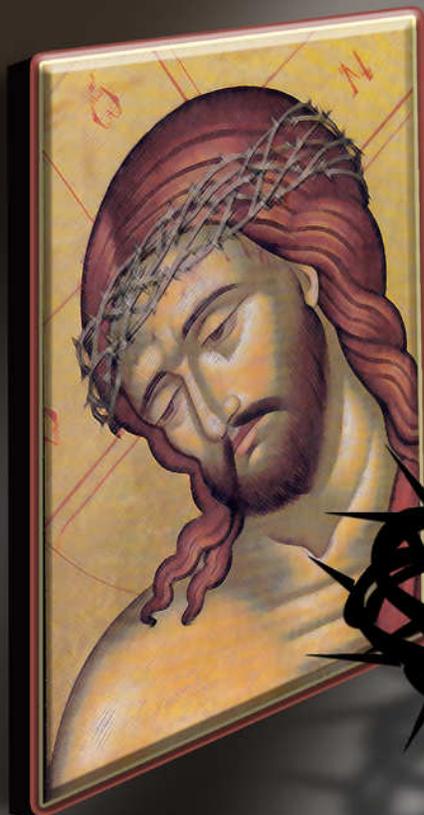
Contact: fr.vasyldovgan@gmail.com
or corrsecretary@uolofusa.org

FOCUSING ON THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT

Saturday, April 13, 2019

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Contact: Oleh or Natalie Bilynsky
nsufler@aol.com (610) 892-7315



Calendar of Events

March 23	Lenten Retreat – Tampa FL
March 30	Lenten Retreat – Villa Maria, PA
April 6	Lenten Retreat- Troy, NY
April 6	Annual Pysanky Workshop
April 13	Lenten Retreat- Bethlehem, PA
April 14	52 nd Annual Pysanky Sale
June 14-17	St Nicholas Special Needs Family Camp
June 23- July6	DCSC Camp
July 7-20	Teenage Conference
July 28-Aug 1	Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me Camp
Aug 30-Sept 2	ASC Family Fest

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. C

BULLETIN SPONSOR DATES

March 3 _____
March 10____Sponsored
March 17____Sponsored
March 24____Sponsored
March 31_____

April 7 _____
April 14 _____
April 21 _____
April 28 _____

BULLETIN SPONSOR FORM

Sponsor _____
In Honor of _____
In Memory of _____
Date of Bulletin you wish to sponsor _____
Donation (\$20. minimum suggested) _____
(Please make checks payable to "Sr. UOL Chapter") _____



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED