





St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

SUNDAY, FEB 27TH

DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 AM TONE 3

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT

ST PARTHENIUS

I COR 6: 12 - 20; LK 15: 11 -32

SATURDAY, MAR 5TH

VESPERS 6:00 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH

DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 AM TONE 4

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS

ST TIMOTHY OF SYMBOLA

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

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TODAY'S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY

STASKO FAMILY IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DAD JOHN A.
STASKO ON HIS 92ND BIRTHDAY. MEMORY ETERNAL.

IN BLESSED MEMORY OF MAX AND DOROTHY ROZUM AND
IN HONOR OF THEIR EARTHLY BIRTHDAYS, MAX'S 97TH AND
DOROTHY'S 93RD

FROM THE FAMILY OF JIM AND IRENE ROZUM

**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 неправославної церкві. Плекаючи надію на те, що у майбутньому всі християни досягнуть єдності і зможуть разом пити із чаші нашого Господа, ми дотримуємося вчення церкви про те, що Євхаристія - це дар єдності, а не засіб до єдності.

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

ми спонукаємо православних християн часто ходити до Святого Причастя;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT

TROPARIUM TO THE RESURRECTION TONE 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm! He has trampled down death by death! He has become the first born of the dead! He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted the world great mercy!

TROPARIUM OF THE JUDGMENT - TONE 1

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat; the books shall be opened and the hidden things disclosed! Then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, righteous Judge!

KONTAKION TO THE RESURRECTION TONE 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Prokiemon

Sing to our God, sing to our King, to our King sing.

Verse: O clap your hands together, all ye people; O sing unto God with the voice of melody.

Lesson from the First Epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

(c. 6, v. 12-20)

Brethren, I am free to do everything, but everything is not convenient for me. Therefore, I do not want to be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach, and the stomach for food. But God will destroy them both ultimately.

The body is not meant for fornication, but for the service of the Lord. For the Lord is the master of our body. Now, God raised our Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also from the dead through his power.

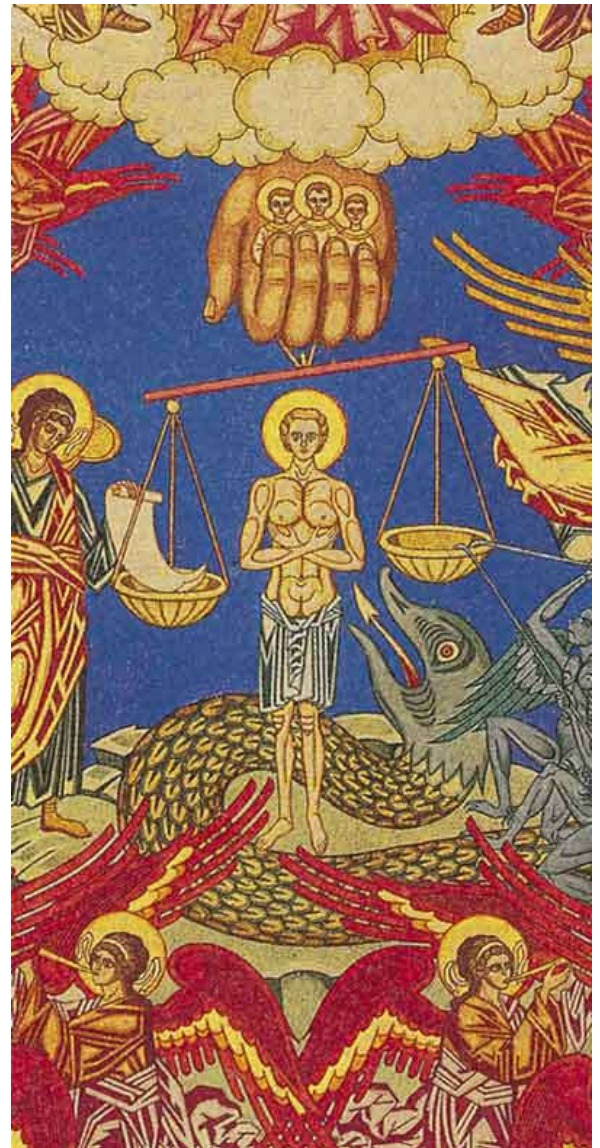
You know that your bodies are members of Christ. Then, you must not take what belongs to Christ and hand it over to a harlot. Never! For you well know that every- one, who unites himself to a harlot, becomes one body with her, as the Scripture says: "The two will become one flesh."

On the contrary, everyone, who unites himself to the Lord, becomes one spirit with him. Therefore, keep away from fornication. Any other sin, which a man commits, is perpetrated outside his own body, but the fornicator is committing a crime against his own body.

You know that your bodies are the shrines of the Holy Spirit within you. You have obtained them from God. Consequently, you are not the masters of your bodies. A ransom has been paid for your redemption. Therefore, glorify God in your bodies and in your spirits, which be- long to God.

1 до коринтян 6:12-20

«Все мені дозволено», — стверджуєте ви. Та у відповідь я вам кажу: не все доцільно й бажано. Навіть якщо це правда, що «усе дозволено мені», але ніщо не повинно володіти мною як рабом. Ось інший мовить: «Їжа — для шлунку, а шлунок — для їжі». Та Бог знищить і те, й друге. Бо тіла наші не для розпусти, а для служіння Господу, й Господь — для тіла нашого. Бог не лише воскресив Господа з мертвих, Він і нас воскресить силою Своєю. Чи ви не знаєте, що тіла ваші є членами Христа? Тож хіба я візьму частини тіла Христа і зроблю їх членами розпустиці? Звісно, ні!



Знов таки: чи не відомо вам, що той, хто з'єднується з розпусницею, стає з нею одним цілим? «Бо двоє, — сказано у Святому Писанні, — стають одним тілом». Той же, хто з'єднується з Господом, духовно стає одним цілим з Ним. Уникайте розпусти. Кожен гріх, вчинений людиною, — поза її тілом, але розпусник грішить проти власного тіла. Невже ви не знаєте, що тіла ваші — це храми Духа Святого, який живе в вас? І хіба ви не знаєте, що ви одержали Дух Святий від Бога, і що ви більше не належите собі? Адже Господь сплатив за вас високу ціну, тож прославте Бога тілами своїми.

Alleluia

v. In You, O Lord, have I placed my hope; let me not be put to shame.
v. Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me.

The Gospel According to Saint Matthew

(c. 25, v. 31-46)

The Lord said: "When the Messiah comes in his glory with all his holy angels, then he will take his seat on his glorious throne, and all the nations will be gathered before him. Thereupon he will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left."

"Then the King will say to those on his right hand: 'Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to see me.' "

"The righteous will answer him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, and give you food, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'"

"The King will reply to them: 'Verily I say to you, insofar as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' "

"Then he will say to those on his left hand: 'Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for Satan and his devils. For I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not welcome me; I was naked and you did not clothe me; I was sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' "

"They will also answer him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to you?' "

"He will reply to them: 'Verily I say to you, insofar as you did not do it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did not do it to me.' "

"So they will go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into everlasting life."

Від Матвія 25:31-46

«Коли Син Людський прийде у Славі Своїй з усіма Ангелами Своїми, Він сяде на троні Своєму величному. І тоді зберуться перед Ним усі народи, і Він розділить людей, як пастух відділяє овець від кіз у стаді своєму. Він збере овець праворуч від себе, а кіз — ліворуч. І тоді Цар промовить до тих, хто праворуч: „Прийдіть, благословенні Отцем Моїм і успадкуйте Царство, призначене вам від дня створення світу. Це вам нагорода, бо голодного Мене ви нагодували, а спраглого напоїли. Перехожому Мені дали притулок, нагого вдягнули, хворого доглядали, а коли Я був у в'язниці, ви прийшли провідати Мене”.

І тоді праведні запитають: „Господи, коли це ми бачили Тебе голодним і нагодували, а спраглого напоїли? Коли це було, щоб ми перехожому Тобі дали притулок, а нагого вдягнули? Коли ми бачили Тебе недужим, і коли це Ми приходили до Тебе у в'язницю?” Тоді Цар відповість їм: „Істинно кажу вам: все, що ви робили для когось із найменших братів Моїх, ви це робили для Мене”.

Тоді скаже Цар до тих, хто буде ліворуч від Нього: „Геть від Мене, ви, прокляті, геть у вогонь вічний, що приготований дияволу та його ангелам. Це вам покарання за те, що голодного Мене ви не нагодували, а спраглого не напоїли. Перехожому Мені не дали притулку, а нагому не дали ніякої одежини. Коли ж Я був хворий і у в'язниці, ви не подбали про Мене”.

І тоді вони у відповідь скажуть: „Господи, коли таке було, щоб ми Тебе бачили голодним чи спраглим, перехожим мандрівником чи нагим, хворим чи ув'язненим — і не допомогли Тобі?” А Він їм на те: „Істинно кажу вам: щоразу, коли ви відмовляли в допомозі одному з братів Моїх найменших, ви відмовляли й Мені”. І приймуть тоді всі неправедні вічну кару, а праведні — вічне життя».

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
Peter Zinski	Ronda Bickel	Gabby Mills	Willie Caldwell
Pearl Homyrda	Maria Warholak	Shaun McAdams	Betty Kimack Mash
Ann Sekelik	Pamela Graham	Rebecca White	Rosemary Berry
Joann Klein	Shelley Cameron	Jocelyn Barner	Deborah Schricker
Michael Klein	James White	Theresa Zatezalo	Jack Schricker
Dan Rosga	Dylan G	Olga Cherniavska	Jeff Mills
Nick Worobny	Michele Roberts	Gary Koss	David Gazella
Dolores Wachnowsky	Georganne K.	Michael Corba	Jackie
Fr. Jakiw Norton	Nick Solominsky		

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

Mar 2 Martyr Inna of Scythia
Inna Holovatiuk

Anniversaries

Mar 3 James & Jane Allred

Birthdays

Feb 27 Ethan Nixon

Feb 4 Larry Trondle

Feb 4 Joanne Pontus

Feast Days of:

Feb. 27 St. Cyril, Equal to the Apostles

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, Eren & Adrienne Saltik

Pray for the newly departed servants of God



- SECRET LENTEN PRAYER PAL:** The Sr. UOL Chapter will once again sponsor the special Lenten Prayer Pals as they have done over the past several years. As a reminder, the idea of the secret prayer pal is to remember the needs of others by offering prayers for them during the Holy Season of Lent; not only to concentrate on your attempts at making your own life better, but to also remember someone else through the act of prayer.

To join the group, please see Sue Leis during Coffee Hour today and ask to have your name included on the list. Today is the last day to sign up. On *Sunday, March 6, 2022*, (during Coffee Hour) all participants will be given the name of their Secret Prayer Pal. Do not tell your prayer pal that you are praying for them, this is to be done privately. On *Easter Sunday, April 24, 2022*, you are to greet your Prayer Pal with a pysanka or some small token (ex. icon card, Easter card, small flower) and the traditional greeting of "Christ Is Risen," letting them know that you were their secret Prayer Pal. Please make sure that you identify yourself to your Lenten Prayer Pal on Easter Sunday. In the past we have had people not do so.

This requires just a small amount of time; a little effort; and a nominal cost for the small token that you hand your Prayer Pal on Easter Sunday. It's easy, definitely rewarding and in this troubled world that we live in, who doesn't need a little extra prayer in their life? Remember, the best gift is the gift of constant prayer~and we could all use more of it!
- UTS ASSEMBLY:** The Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) will hold its annual general assembly on Sunday, September 27 at 3 PM at the Ukrainian-American Citizens' Club in Carnegie. All members are urged to attend. New/potential members will be welcomed!
- VESTMENTS:** We still need a few more donations to cover the last set of vestments and shipping costs. Prices were increased while we waited to get the last set ordered. To date we now have new gold vestments for all servers, the altar table, and other tables. And all servers have new white vestments. The last set needed will include priest, deacon, and altar servers vestments in purple. If you would like to donate to the vestment project please see Fr. John or John Stasko.
- MEATFARE BRUNCH:** The UOL Sr. Chapter is sponsoring a potluck for Meatfare Sunday this Sunday at Coffee Hour. Come to Coffee Hour and say farewell to meat by sharing a meal with your parish family.
- MEMORY ETERNAL:** Our prayers and sympathies go out to the family of Steve Sawchuk, who fell asleep in the Lord this past week. Steve's funeral was on Saturday and he was buried in the parish cemetery. May his memory be eternal.

Stewardship

THANK YOU FOR THESE RECENT DONATIONS:



LET'S HELP UKRAINE!



ДОПОМОЖІМО УКРАЇНІ!

УСЕРДНИЙ ЗАКЛИК ПРО ДОПОМОГУ AN URGENT APPEAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Dear beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

GLORY BE TO OUR LORD!

As the news agencies around the world have informed, the situation in Ukraine has become worse, almost beyond comprehension - the invasion of Russian Federation of Independent Ukraine.

It appears that the lessons of history have not been learned and the murder of the citizenry and destruction of Ukrainian land are utilized to advance geopolitical agenda of the Russian Federation.

In the past we have urged our faithful, if they have a desire to do so, to contribute funds in support of our charitable aid efforts. However, as the nation of Ukraine defends itself against aggression - we are issuing this urgent appeal for contributions, which will be delivered in person to the proper individuals, for the medical care of the thousands of people who have been injured, some very severely, during these difficult days. Your contribution may be the primary reason that another human being receives the treatment necessary for survival.



We must stress that time is of the essence. Our goal is to get these contributions into the hands of those who need them as soon as we can! The most expedient method for making such donations for this cause would be to utilize our secure online donation link, https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=J6H8WN2ZJSY54

Contributions may be also sent by special postal delivery to the Consistory at P. O. Box, 495, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880 or they may be hand delivered to the Consistory office at 135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873, marked "LET'S HELP UKRAINE".

We must make it clear that we are making this appeal not out of any political point of view, but rather, out of our stated concern for the dignity and sanctity of human life. If it is in your heart to respond to this appeal, please do not delay.

We pray for our Lord's blessings upon the Ukrainian people and their nation.

In His all-encompassing Love,

+ ANTONY, Metropolitan

+ DANIEL, Bishop



His Beatitude Metropolitan Epifaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine
Kyiv, Ukraine

Your Beatitude,

As hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and Diaspora, we address you with the sentiments of profound prayerful support, as the nation – people of Ukraine face the actions of aggression of the Russian Federation. The clergy and faithful of the UOC of the USA and Diaspora are truly united in spirit of prayer and action with our brethren in Ukraine and Ukrainians throughout the world.

The events of the last eight years that have led to the irresponsible behavior of political leaders of Russian Federation in the past few days have finally awoken the world-wide community to the crimes against the civilized society that politicians of Russian government have taken.

Throughout Ukraine's history, millions of people have given their lives for freedom, dignity and human rights, in order to claim the right to peace and stability as any other nation enjoys in the world. The voice of the peace-loving people of Ukraine must be heard and respected and it cannot be silenced by the noise of ammunition and actions of those in political and spiritual leadership positions who choose to confuse and abuse by utilizing violence – war, against the people of Ukraine.

The faithful of our Church in the USA and Diaspora are from the various parts of Ukraine. We all have family members and friends living in the East and West, North and South of Ukraine, and thus we are profoundly concerned for the wellbeing, stability, and security of the people of Ukraine that are threatened by the reports of the planned persecution and the crimes against humanity in Donbas region of Ukraine.

We join Your Beatitude, clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in prayer for the peace in the ancestral homeland for so many of Ukrainian Christians in the United States of America and throughout the globe. We are standing with you and offer our assistance in the battle against the war crimes against the people of Ukraine. No physical force will ever succeed in eliminating the free will and the voice of the citizenry!

Embracing the gift of freedom with you, our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and throughout the world, and in the hope of moving forward, rather than backward in history, we beseech with awe and thanksgiving the Father of lights and every perfect gift, the Son of righteousness and the Spirit of truth to descend upon us all, embrace us, guiding and perfecting our every deed.

+Antony, Metropolitan
+Jeremiah, Archbishop
+Daniel, Archbishop



Блаженніший Митрополите Епіфаніє,

ХРИСТОС ПОСЕРЕД НАС! Є І ЗАВЖДИ БУДЕ!

Як Ієрархи Української Православної Церкви США, Південної Америки та Діаспори, ми звертаємося до Вас із глибокою та молитовною підтримкою, оскільки перед нацією – народом України постає невпинна агресія Російської Федерації. Духовенство та вірні нашої Церкви за межами України є об'єднаними в душі молитви та в душі дій з нашими братами в Україні та українцями по всьому світу.

Події останніх восьми років, які призвели до безвідповідальної поведінки політичних лідерів Російської Федерації протягом останніх кількох днів, сколихнули світ своїми злочинами (яке свідомо було вчинене усіма гілками російської влади) проти цивілізованого суспільства.

Впродовж історії України мільйони втратили свої життя, свободу, гідність і права людини заради тих людей, які бажають мати право на мир і стабільність, котрі є відомими всім демократичним державам світу. Голос миролюбного народу України має бути почутим і його повинні всі шанувати. Цей голос не може бути приглушеним тими, хто чи в політичному чи в духовному керівництві є агресором та вирішує обманювати та зловживати, використовуючи насильство та війну проти України та її народу.

Вірні нашої Церкви в США, Південній Америці та Діаспорі мають коріння в усіх регіонах України. Наші рідні та друзі живуть на Сході та Заході, Півночі та Півдні України. Ми глибоко переймаємося добробутом, стабільністю і безпекою наших людей, котрим погрожують повідомленнями про підготовку списків тих, хто підлягає страті, ув'язненню, направленню в табори для «реабілітації» або тих, хто змушені зникнути, оскільки загарбники прагнуть повністю взяти під контроль усю націю.

Приєднуємось до Вашого Блаженства, усіх Ієрархів, духовенства та вірних Православної Церкви України в молитві за мир на Батьківщині для багатьох українських християн, які проживають у Сполучених Штатах Америки та по всьому світу. Ми твердо стоїмо на Вашій стороні у «боротьбі на благо», захищаючи вірний боголюбивий народ України. У світі немає ніякої фізичної сили, котра змогла б зруйнувати віру, волю та голос громадян незалежної і суверенної Української нації!

Цінуючи дар свободи разом з Вами, Ваше Блаженство, і всіма нашими братами і сестрами в Україні та по всьому світу, в надії рухатися вперед, а не назад в історії, ми з трепетом та вдячністю благаємо Отця Світла і всякого звершеного Дару, Сина Добročесності і Духа Істини зійти на всіх нас, обійняти нас, керуючи і удосконалюючи наш кожен вчинок.

+ *Антоній, Митрополит*
+ *Єремія, Архієпископ*
+ *Даниїл, Архієпископ*

How We Relate to our Neighbors Reveals the Truth About How We Relate to God: Homily for the Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare) in the Orthodox Church

[Fr. Philip LeMasters](#)

On this Sunday of the Last Judgment, the Church calls us to see the ultimate meaning and purpose of our lives before God. As we begin the last week before Great Lent, the Savior reminds us in today's gospel reading that the path to eternal life runs through our neighbors, especially those we are inclined to overlook, disregard, and even despise. How we treat the hungry and thirsty, the stranger and the naked, the sick and the prisoner reveals the true state of our souls. How we serve our suffering and inconvenient neighbors, whoever they are, is how we serve our Lord.

That is the case because whether we truly share in His life is shown by whether His love and mercy are evident in us. If we truly participate in Him, the Lord's virtues will become our virtues, for He has worked the fulfillment of the human person in the image and likeness of God. And what is more characteristic of Christ than His self-emptying love for all who suffer the degrading consequences of sin? By offering Himself fully on the Cross, the God-Man has set us free from bondage to corruption and has united us to Himself as members of His Body, the Church. The crucified and risen Lord enables us to participate by grace in the eternal communion of love shared by the Holy Trinity. The ultimate test of our souls is whether we have united ourselves to Christ such that His love permeates every dimension of who we are from the depths of our souls to how we treat our neighbors.

The question is not whether we can impress God by being extremely religious or earn a reward by doing enough good deeds. It is not whether we work out in our heads that by serving others we are serving Him. It is, instead, whether we embrace His healing to the point that we radiate His selfless love to other people. The more our character conforms to His, the more we will spontaneously offer ourselves to build relationships of love with our neighbors. To do so means that we will be able to say truthfully, "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." (Gal. 2:20)

St. Paul wrote that the key issue in the question of whether to eat meat that had been sacrificed to pagan idols in first-century Corinth was how doing so impacted others. He writes that "food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care, lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak." To cause another to fall back into paganism would be to "sin against Christ." We read this passage on the last day for eating meat before Pascha according to the fasting discipline of the Church. His words show that what is truly at stake in fasting is not a mere change in diet or an act of religious observance, but learning to relate to food in a way that helps us acquire the spiritual strength to love and serve our neighbors. When we abstain from the richest and most satisfying foods, we have an opportunity to redirect our desires for self-gratification to blessing others. Eating a humble diet also frees up resources to give to the needy. Meals should be simple and the leftovers will keep for future meals, freeing up time and energy that we may direct toward the good of others and devote to prayer and spiritual reading. Fasting teaches that we can live without getting exactly what we want or satisfying every desire. Contrary to what our consumeristic culture teaches, it will not kill us to say "no" to our own preferences about what we eat as we put serving God and neighbor before serving ourselves.



The spiritual discipline of fasting is not an end in itself focused primarily on our diets. It is simply a tool for shifting the focus away from ourselves and toward the Lord and our brothers and sisters in whom we encounter Him each day. If we distort fasting into a private religious accomplishment to show ourselves, others, and even God how holy we are, we would do better not to fast at all. This spiritual discipline helps us to share more fully in the self-emptying love of Christ as we turn from addiction to satisfying ourselves to freely serving others. That kind of love is essential for growing in union with our neighbors and with the Lord. It is a crucial dimension of participating in the deified humanity of the Savior Who offered up Himself in order to draw all people into the Holy Trinity's eternal communion of love.

Of course, there are false substitutes for uniting ourselves to Christ as we serve others as He has served us. It is possible to distort the fasting guidelines and other disciplines of Lent into legalistic acts we think will somehow satisfy God or make us look virtuous in the eyes of others. Doing so is simply a distraction, however, from fulfilling the true purpose of the coming season. It is the vain effort of trying to serve ourselves instead of God and those who bear His image and likeness. In Lent, our focus must be set squarely on Christ and His living icons, not on us. The fundamental calling of the Christian life is to become like our Lord, Who offered Himself up for the salvation of the world purely out of love. If we want to approach Lent in a spiritually healthy way that will enable us to participate more fully in Him, then we too must offer up ourselves for our neighbors.

The particular form of that self-offering will vary according to the needs of the people we encounter and our gifts, callings, and life circumstances. Discerning how to live faithfully is not a matter of cold-blooded rational calculation, but of being so conformed to Christ that we become a "living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1) such that the Savior's healing of fallen humanity becomes active and effective in us. Instead of living as isolated individuals who define themselves over against one another in an endless cycle of competition and grievance, we must grow as persons in communion with Christ and all those who bear His image and likeness. His life will truly become ours as we grow in relationships of sacrificial love with one another.

According to today's gospel reading, this alone is the true path to the eternal life of the Kingdom. Whether we pursue it will determine if we have the spiritual clarity to behold the glory of the Lord as joyful, brilliant light or instead become so blind that we perceive only the burning torment of our own refusal to be transformed by His love. The difference between the sheep and the goats on the last day is not in our Lord, but in how we have responded to Him. His eternal judgment will identify the truth about our souls and reveal clearly and definitively who we have become.

Great Lent presents us all with the opportunity to unite ourselves to Christ in holiness through prayer, fasting, almsgiving, forgiveness, and other forms of repentance. These practices are not individual religious accomplishments, but humble ways of offering ourselves to become the kind of people who share so fully in the life of Christ that we convey His merciful love to all His living icons, especially those we are most inclined to disregard. We are all far from fulfilling this high calling and need the coming weeks to grow closer to the Savior Who emptied Himself on the Cross in order to rise up in glory on the third day for our salvation. If we want to enter into the joy of His resurrection, we must offer ourselves for the good of the neighbors in whom we encounter Him. There is simply no way around this truth: How we serve them shows how we serve Him.

If we wonder whether to take Lent seriously this year, we should ask whether we treat everyone we encounter as a living icon of Christ. If we are honest, the answer is no. That is because we tend to relate to others in light of our own self-centered desires, which lead us to fear, resent, and disregard people as obstacles to getting what we want. Regardless of how right we may be about any point of disagreement with anyone, our spiritual blindness distorts even our best glimpses of the truth. In order to find healing, we must get to the root of the matter by exposing the darkness of our souls to the brilliant light of Christ. Even the best religious and moral practices lack the power to make us radiant with the gracious divine energies. Only the restoration of the human person worked by our Savior in His victory over death can do that. Let us use Lent to unite ourselves to Christ so that we will find the strength to serve Him in our neighbors. The point is not legalism about food or anything else, but acquiring the spiritual character of those who serve Him even in the most wretched persons without even knowing it. That is who we must become if we are to enter into the eternal joy of the Lord. Yes, we all need a holy Lent this year.

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/easternchristianinsights/2021/03/06/how-we-relate-to-our-neighbors-reveals-the-truth-about-how-we-relate-to-god-homily-for-the-sunday-of-the-last-judgment-meatfare-in-the-orthodox-church/>

Praying our way Together Great Lent

Sponsored by the UOL Education Commission

Looking for something to heighten your spiritual journey to prepare for Pascha.

If you would like to journey with us, please email your name, phone number, parish name, and parish address to Oleh Bilynsky at nsufler@aol.com and more information will be sent to you.

Please sign up by March 1, 2022.

The 75th UOL Convention is being hosted by the Sr. UOL Chapter in our Parish this July. At each convention, a Yearbook with Greetings and information is compiled. These greetings are from parishes, organizations, businesses, and people. There are many options available from full page to quarter page, to even a Sponsor. New this year is even a "Video Greeting" option. If you have questions, please see or email Chris Mills at 75thuolyearbook@orthodoxcarnegie.org. All forms can be printed from our website at [75thYearbook | St. Peter & St. Paul \(orthodoxcarnegie.org\)](http://75thYearbook|St.Peter&St.Paul.orthodoxcarnegie.org).

Chapters, Parishes, Friends!

Ask people to be a "Patron Sponsor" for our 75th UOL Convention Yearbook for only \$10.00! They can provide their own personal greeting on the below space!

Thank you for helping to make the 75th Anniversary UOL Convention a Success!!

(Wonder which Chapter, Parish or person will obtain the most Patron Sponsors?)

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75th UOL Convention

Sr. UOL Chapter of

St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

P. O. Box 835 | Carnegie, PA 15106

Email: 75uolconvention@gmail.com

Website: www.orthodoxcarnegie.org/75thuolconvention

In the Beginning... 75th UOL Convention July 27 – 31, 2022

Commemorative Yearbook Advertising Form

Inside Front Cover \$200 <input type="radio"/>	Outside Back Cover \$200 <input type="radio"/>	Inside Cover Back \$200 <input type="radio"/>
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Ad not camera ready/publisher ready please add \$10 <input type="radio"/>	NEW: Video greeting (see info below) \$10	Most of the Yearbook will be "Black & White."

- Full Page Ad purchasers receive a "free" copy of the 75th UOL Convention Yearbook.
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- Photos will not be returned. Reproduction quality cannot be guaranteed.
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- Please email your ad to: 75thuoLYearbook@orthodoxcarnegie.org
- We will also accept ads submitted via US Mail, digital preferred.

Please make checks payable to "75th UOL Convention"

Mail all money and/or forms by **May 1, 2022**, to:

**Sts. Peter & Paul UOC 75th UOL Convention: YEARBOOK/Chris Mills
PO Box 835 Carnegie, PA 15106**

Video Yearbook Info: Video Deadline April 1, 2022

By submitting your video yearbook greeting, you grant the 75th UOL Convention Committee and the Ukrainian Orthodox League rights to use the content and your image for publication.

Best Practices, Instructions for filming & Submitting:

- Please be sure to record your video in an appropriate location with little to no background noise.
- Please be sure that your background is pleasing to the eye and appropriate.
 - *If it's a nice day, consider filming outside!*
- Videos should not reveal any personal information you would not want others to know.
- The video can be recorded on your computer or smartphone.
 - *If filming on a phone, please film **horizontally** (not up & down!) to avoid having black space on the sides.*
- Please submit all video as .mp4 format.
- **Upon receipt of submission form and payment, you will receive a link to upload your video.**

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ (day) Phone: _____ (night)

Calendar of Events

Apr. 10 Pysanky Sale
July 27-31 75th UOL Convention

COFFEE HOUR

Feb. 20 Ron & Bev Wachnowsky
Feb. 27 Meatfare Sunday

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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Feb. 13 _____
Feb. 20 Sponsored
Feb. 27 Sponsored

Mar 6 _____
Mar 13 _____
Mar 20 _____
Mar 27 _____

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