



St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

220 Mansfield Blvd | Carnegie PA 15106

orthodoxcarnegie@gmail.com

www.orthodoxcarnegie.org

Parish Information Updates: April 9, 2020

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Parish Family,

As we conclude Great Lent and enter into Holy Week there are a few things of which I'd like to inform you. As many of you know, our services have been live streamed and will continue to be according to the schedule set out before Great Lent began. Now is a great opportunity to share the beauty of the Orthodox Liturgical life with your friends and coworkers who may not know what Orthodoxy is or what the services look like. Please share the link to our website with as many people as you're able so that we can share the love of our Lord with all of our neighbors.

After the Liturgy of Palm Sunday, palms and pussy willows will be blessed and set aside for our parishioners. Our hierarchs are already looking forward to the day in which we will re-enter into our church and asked their priests to distribute the blessed palms and pussy willows on that day to mirror the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. Our hierarchs are so excited to have us in church again that they've already mapped out how we will be distributing the palms and pussy willows along with which prayers we will pray. I am overjoyed to do this and can't wait to have you all in the church again.

During Holy Week services, I humbly ask for your forgiveness in advance. While this is not a theatrical production, I need to consider that you are watching this through a screen. There will be services, that are usually done in darkness, that will be illumined so that you may see what's taking place. There will also be less set up for the services; for example the plashchinitnya (shroud) will be laid on the tetrapod rather than setting up the tomb. Doing things like this allow us to serve the services for you without having to call in groups of volunteers to assemble and dismantle things in a time when we are supposed to be staying home.

At the conclusion of the Pascha service, which will begin at 9:30 PM on Saturday, April 18th, as scheduled, I will bless my family's pascha basket while still live streaming. Our hierarchs would like you to join me, at this time, in blessing your family's basket. After I read the prayer of the blessing I will sprinkle my basket with Holy Water and you are asked to do the same with the Holy Water in your house. Our hierarchs stress that this procedure is blessed to occur this way for this year only because of the pandemic.

As always, please reach out to me if you have any needs or know of someone who has a need. I miss you all and am praying for all of you. I look forward to when we will be back together in our beautiful church. Please take caution in all aspects of your life; none of us will regret being cautious when this is over. May God bless all of you, those for whom you pray, and all of the people still going to work every day so that we have what we need, with health, peace, and endurance.

In Christ's love,

Fr. John

QUESTIONS? About the church, Orthodoxy or need to discuss something;
please reach out to **Fr. John Charest** at **847.910.7120** or
frjohn.charest@aol.com

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Parish Information Updates: March 27, 2020

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear parish family,

*As new information comes forward, we are continuing to both keep you safe and provide for your spiritual needs. The last time I explained new directives to everyone I said that it was done in wisdom and mercy. I need to add one more word to this list. These directives are done in wisdom, mercy, and **love**. Our hierarchs had a clergy conference on Wednesday evening in which they expressed their profound love for the clergy and faithful. *With that love, they want nothing more than for us to be safe in all this. They were overwhelmed by the people who came out to pray at Sunday services last week and with mercy, wisdom, and love they are now stating that the clergy are to serve the Divine Liturgy without the faithful in the building.**

As of this Sunday, the Liturgy will be closed to all parishioners. However, we have come up with a way to have the Liturgy live on our website. You won't need to log into a Facebook account. Instead, you can watch right from the website. <https://www.orthodoxcarnegie.org/>

The church will be open for private prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between the hours of 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We need to keep this a safe practice for everyone. We ask that when entering the church each person sanitize their hands and touch as little as possible. Only beeswax candles will be available to light. They will be in a sandbox in the narthex and should be brought to the front to light. Please continue to refrain from venerating icons. We need to keep the amounts of persons to 10 or fewer and everyone needs to keep a distance of 6 feet from one another. If you have any symptoms of any sort of illness, please refrain from entering the church.

If anyone is in need of any material items, food, or emotional support during this please reach out to me at frjohn.charest@aol.com or 847-910-7120 and I will make arrangements to take care of your need. You are all in my prayers; may our Lord bless you with health, peace, and endurance.

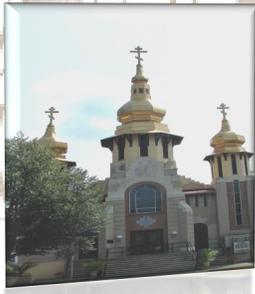
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Parish Information Updates

March 18, 2020

Glory to Jesus Christ!

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I greet you in the midst of uncertain times with a heavy heart. As we mercifully try to keep our parish family safe, we are implementing the following new, temporary actions. Please take them seriously and feel free to contact me (847)-910-7120, frjohn.charest@aol.com if they cause strife in your faith or heart.

- 1) Only Sunday Divine Liturgies will be served. Until further notice, no other service will be served and there will be no coffee hour after Liturgy.
- 2) If you or a family member in your household present symptoms of any kind of illness, please stay home from services. If you'd like a visit, contact Fr. John.
- 3) If you are over the age of 65, please stay home from services; if you'd like a visit, please contact Fr. John.

Please remember, these new regulations are out of love and mercy. We are not lacking faith in our Lord. When Christ, was in the wilderness for 40 days, the devil tempted Him to use His power. The devil told Jesus to throw Himself off a high cliff, stating, *"If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You, and they will lift You in their hands, so that You will not dash your foot against a stone.'"* Jesus replied, *"It is also written, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"* Let us follow the example of our Lord and not put our God to the test, rather, let us take precautions that we know will help us and our parish family. Our faith is not weak because we're preserving our health, we are stewards of our bodies and we must act accordingly.

Please continue to read e-mails and share the information with those who do not access e-mail.

May the grace of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ be with you.

In Christ's love,

Fr. John

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Parish Information Updates

March 17 2020

Glory to Jesus Christ!

- ◇ **ALL liturgical services, except Sunday Divine Liturgies are canceled until further notice.**

Includes: Pre-sanctified Liturgies, Vespers, Divine Liturgy (Non-Sunday), Deanery Lenten Vespers. Please check the Parish website if you have any questions on scheduled services.

- ◇ **Sunday Divine Liturgies** will be at 9:30 AM and will follow the protocols as outlined by Fr. John Charest previously. If you have any questions, please contact him at 847.910.7120 or frjohn.charest@aol.com.
- ◇ **If you are 65 or older, please stay home!** If you would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact Fr. John to make arrangements.
- ◇ **Reminder:** Senior Coffee Hour, Sunday Coffee Hour are canceled until further notice. If you have a question about a specific organization event, please contact the leader of the organization for information.
- ◇ **Updates:** Please continue to stay updated with items via the Parish Website and Social Media Outlets (Facebook & Instagram).

In His Name,

Fr. John Charest & Sts. Peter & Paul Parish

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