

Sunday Bulletin ~ February 1st, 2026
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Camp Ministry Sunday



Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church
1025 N Belle Vista Ave, Youngstown, Ohio 44509



Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian
Orthodox Church

Українська Православна
Церква Св Петра і Павла

1025 N. Belle Vista Ave
Youngstown, OH 44509

Phone: 330-799-3830

Email: stspeterpauluoc@gmail.com

Fr. Mykola Zomchak
Pastor

Anna Anderson
Choir Director

Chuck Woloschak
President of the Parish

Ministries:

Altar Servers
Church Choir
Church School
Adult Education

St. Mary's Sisterhood

Sts. Peter & Paul Brotherhood
Senior UOL Chapter
Junior UOL Chapter
Youth Ministry

Orphanage Mission Ministry
Bingo Team

Fr Mykola Zomchak - Editor

Website:

<https://www.stspeterpauluoc.org>

STS Peter & Paul UOC

Let us celebrate the Resurrection of Christ



Sunday Bulletin - February 1st, 2026

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Camp Ministry Sunday

**In Memory of
Nancy Tiedeman** - bull 8

**In Memory of
Maria Prychodczenko** - bull 8

**In Memory of
Walter Duzzny** - bull 9

- **Changeable Parts of the Liturgy** - bull 3
- **Liturgical Schedule & Events** - bull 5
- **February Birthdays & Annivers.** - bull 6
- **Announcements & Greetings** - bull 7
- **The Prayer God Hears** - bull 9
- **Camping Ministry Sunday** - bull 10
- **All Saints Camp Programs 2026** - bull 12
- **Greetings to: Jacob Kornblum** - bull 13
- **& Camilla Marie Woloschak** - bull 13
- **Reflections: Patience** - bull 14
- **Hope** - bull 14
- **Orthodox Christianity 101:
Kingdom of God** - bull 15

CHANGEABLE PARTS OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,

You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Your Resurrection,
O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom!// Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Tone 1 Kontakion

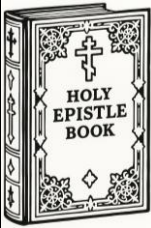
As God, You rose from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Yourself. Human nature
praises You as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is
freed from bondage and cries to You:// “You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Tone 1 Prokeimenon

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us /as we have set our hope on You! (Ps. 32:22)

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

The Reading is from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to Timothy 3:10-15



But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia and Verses Tone 8

V. God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. (Ps. 17:48)

V. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps. 17:51)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The reading is from the Gospel according to St. Luke 18:10-14



“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man



went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Communion Hymn

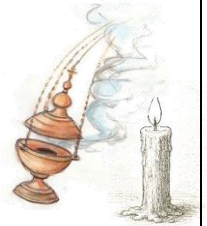
Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

MEMORY ETERNAL

PLEASE PRAY FOR RESTING OF THE SOULS

Maria Koval-Melnykovich, Peter Hucul, Mary Bobersky, Walter Duzzny, Dennis Currie, Julian, Vasyl Zomchak, Heather Rhodes, Joe Zemko, Jeff Ulrich, Judy Cebriak, William Zylka, Serhiy, Pat Mamajack, Arlene Hawryluk, Mary C. Moon, Lidiia Zabrodina, Metro Senedak, Eleanor K. Laise, Julian Naumenko, Patricia Huly, John Senediak, Ann & George Klein. Victims of the war in Ukraine.



PRAYER LIST

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING, COMFORT, AND SPIRITUAL PEACE



Metropolitan Anthony, Archbishop Daniel, Patricia Mogish, Denny Lightner, Kevin Finnerty, Alice Dobransky, Jamie Maluk, Alexandr, Missouri, Jane, Sam, Lorenzo, Lori, Christine Kline, Larry, Soldier Ivan, Dolly Mehalco, Stephen Shonn, Thelma Zemko, Artur Bohuslav, Lori Hayda, Shirley Duffy, Michele (Senediak) Caulder, Dobrodiyka Lilya, Sandy, Marilyn O’Leary, Harold Owens, Marianne Carmack, Nicholas Yurchyk, Pauline Witkowsky, Eileen Maluk, Peter Anderson, Albert Auden, Boris & Kathleen Vuksanovich, Kathy Zebel. People Suffering from any Illnesses. Ukrainian people suffering from war.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD	On January 11	On January 18
General:	\$ 1814.00	\$ 1838.00
Renovation:	\$ 113.00	
Online Donations on Tithe.ly	\$ 75.00	\$ 35.00

Bulletin Dedication

(in memory of a loved one, or in honor for an anniversary)

Sun Feb 1 1. Dedicated 2. Dedicated	Sun Feb 8 1. Dedicated 2. Available	Sun Feb 15 1. Available 2. Available	Sun Feb 22 Not Available	
Sun Mar 1 1. Available 2. Available	Sun Mar 8 1. Available 2. Available	Sun Mar 15 1. Available 2. Available	Sun Mar 22 Not Available	Sun Mar 29 1. Available 2. Available

Liturgical Schedule & Feast Days



SERVICE AND FEAST DAY SCHEDULE

* (*HEARING CONFESSIONS ON SUNDAYS BEFORE LITURGY 8:30AM - 9:15AM*)

- Sunday, February 1, 9:30AM – Divine Liturgy, Sunday of Publican and Pharisee (Lk. 18:10-14)
- Sunday, February 8, 9:30AM – Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the Prodigal Son (Lk. 15:11-32)
- Sunday, February 15, 9:30AM – Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the Last Judgment (Mt. 25:31-46)
THE MEETING OF THE LORD (Lk. 2:22-40)
- Sunday, February 22, 9:30AM – Divine Liturgy, Sunday of Expulsion of Adam from Paradise (Mt. 6:14-21)
- Sunday, March 1, 9:30AM – Divine Liturgy, Sunday of Triumph of Orthodoxy (Jn. 1:43-51)

Upcoming dates & events

- February 8 – **Super Bowl Sunday Fundraiser Feb 8 (Making soups on Feb 7)**
- Saturday, February 7 - Soup Making for St. Andrew's Soup Kitchen
- Saturday, February 7 at 10 am - Junior UOL meeting, at the Souper Bowl workday at the hall, to finalize plans for the Church School outing, and make plans for other events, fundraisers, and donations. The Juniors will be helping to pack the soup giveaway bags after the meeting. They will also help with the soup giveaway on Sunday from 11:30-1:00.
- Sunday, February 8 - Soup Give Away 11:30am to 1:00pm
- Sunday, February 16 - UOL Meeting

Pyrohy Schedule

ORDER BY DATE:	WORK DAY (Prep)	WORK DAY (Make)	PICK-UP DAY
Feb. 2	Feb. 3	Feb. 5	Feb. 6
Feb. 10	Feb. 11	Feb. 13	Feb. 14
Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 27	Feb. 28
March 10	March 11	March 13	March 14
March 24	March 25	March 27	March 28
April 7	April 8	April 10	April 11
May 12	May 13	May 15	May 16



Dear Parishioners and Friends, WE NEED HELP!

Please offer your time to help at the Bingo kitchen on available dates (?)

BINGO KITCHEN WORK SCHEDULE 2026

Date	Register	Server	Server
Mon., Feb.2,	Karen Semchee	Nadiya Lybushka	Barb Ross
Weds., Feb. 4,	Sharlene Senediak	Bobbi Yarosh	Chris Buccino
Mon., Feb. 9,	Crystal Walkowiec	?	?
Mon., Feb. 16,	Karen Semchee	Carla Rogenski	Bev Henry
Mon., Feb. 23,	Crystal Walkowiec	?	?
Mon, Mar. 2,	Karen Semchee	Nadiya Lybushka	Barb Ross
Weds., Mar. 4	?	?	?
Mon., Mar. 9	Crystal Walkowiec	?	?

Please call or text Annie Woloschak if you would like to help – 330-766-0182

THIS MONTH OUR PARISH CELEBRATES



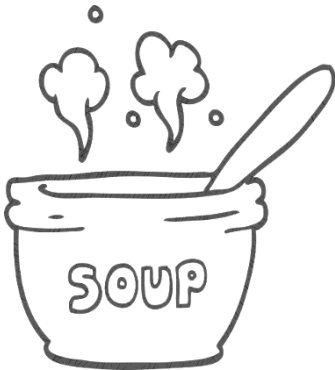
FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- February 6, 1971 Gerald & Elizabeth Zets
- February 8, 1969 Patricia & James Nichols
- February 13, 1999 Michael & Theresa Semchee
- February 15, 1975 Peter & Bonnie Borovitcky
- February 27, 1982- Bohdan & Nadiya Lyubuska

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Rich Semchee | 19 Ethan Rhodes |
| 1 Avery McCormick | 20 Tamara Betts |
| 2 Katie & Bernie Rogenski's | 21 Dee Bralish |
| 3 James Nichols | 23 Carole Senediak |
| 4 Walter Duzzny | 2 Thomas G DeLuca |
| 7 Gertrude Senediak | 25 Kyle Crown |
| 10 James Nichols | 26 Walter Malys |
| 15 Christina M. Thornton | 27 Irene Hustic |
| 16 Michael Semchee Sr. | 27 Sandy Burlock |

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETINGS:



• **Super Bowl Sunday Fundraiser Feb 8— Donations and Help Needed**

Dear Parish Family,

As we prepare for Super Bowl Sunday, we are once again coming together to support St. Andrew's Soup Kitchen through our annual fundraiser.

We are gratefully accepting food donations: 3 whole chickens, 5 roasts 3–4 lb size, 3 lbs carrots, 4–5 lbs of frozen mixed vegetables, 3 stalks of celery, 30 lbs of potatoes, 2 gallons milk, 2 2 lb blocks of sharp cheddar, 3 lg heads of garlic or one jar (small), Vegetable Base, Beef Base, Chicken Base. If you are unable to donate food items, monetary donations are also welcome and deeply

appreciated.

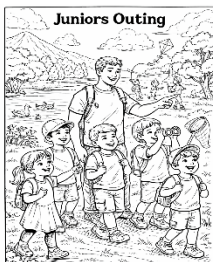
All donations may be given to the UOL **by Feb 7.**

For donations or any questions, please contact Anna Anderson at 234-247-1534.

Your generosity makes a real difference and is a beautiful way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Thank you for your continued kindness and support.

We will also need help cooking on Feb 7 and distributing on Feb 8.

With gratitude, Sts Peter and Paul Parish



• **Outing for the Juniors**

The Junior UOL is planning an outing for Sunday, February 15, after Church School, for the Juniors and Church School students. After Church School classes, there will be pizza, chips, and drinks for all church school students. Then, all church school students are invited to come to the Funcity Adventure Park in the Austintown Plaza. A fun event for all ages!

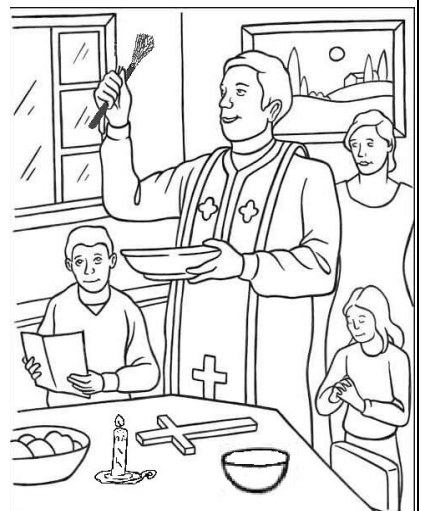
• **House Blessing**

During the days following the Feast of Theophany (January 19), it is customary for the priest to visit the homes of parishioners, bringing with him the blessed "Jordan Water" to sanctify each household. All members of the family are encouraged to be present for the blessing, if possible.

The blessing of homes at Theophany is a renewal of our life in Christ. As we ourselves were washed in the waters of Baptism, so now our homes are blessed, becoming temples of the Holy Spirit—places where the will of our Heavenly Father is fulfilled and where we are protected from every evil.

Fr. Mykola will be calling to arrange a convenient day and time for your home blessing.

Fr Mykola is looking forward to blessing your homes this year and many to come!



IN MEMORY OF

NANCY TIEDEMAN

+ JAN 24, 2022

**“MAY THE LORD REST
THEIR SOULS IN HIS
HEAVENLY KINGDOM”**

IN MEMORY OF

**MARIA
PRYCHODCZENKO**

+ JAN 6, 2013

SADLY MISSED BY
WAYNE TIEDEMAN
THE ANDERSON FAMILY:
DAVID, ANNA, PETER,
KATHERINE, PETER, NICHOLAS,
LINDSAY, SOPHIA & CHARLOTTE





IN MEMORY OF

WALTER DUZZNY

+ DEC 16, 2025

ON THE 40TH DAY
OF HIS PASSING AWAY



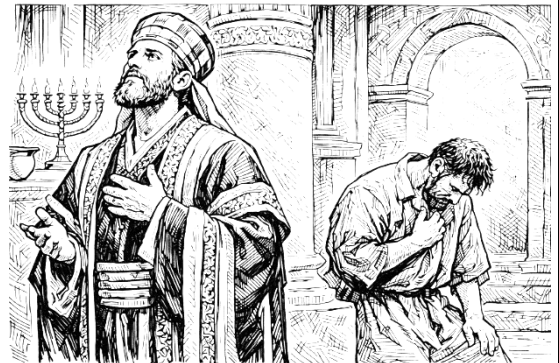
“HIS MEMORY BE FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION”

Reflection: The Prayer God Hears

the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee

In the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee, Christ reveals something deeply unsettling—and deeply liberating—about the human heart.

The Pharisee appears outwardly righteous. He fasts, he tithes, he follows the law. Yet his prayer is not truly directed to God; it is a speech about himself. Standing before the altar, he measures his holiness by comparing himself to others: *“I am not like other men.”* His righteousness becomes a wall that separates him from God. The Publican, on the other hand, stands at a distance. He does not lift his eyes to heaven. He offers no list of achievements, no defense, no comparison. Only a single, honest cry: **“God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”** And Christ shocks His listeners by declaring that *this* man—broken, humbled, aware of his sin—goes home justified.



This parable teaches us that **humility is not self-hatred, but truth**. The Publican does not deny God's holiness or the law; he simply recognizes his own need for mercy. The Pharisee, blinded by his virtues, no longer sees his need for God at all.

The danger of the Pharisee is not that he does good things—but that he trusts in them. The danger for us is the same. We can pray, fast, serve, preach, and still secretly believe that God owes us something.

The prayer God hears is not the loudest, the longest, or the most impressive. It is the prayer that comes from a heart that knows it cannot save itself.

This parable calls us to examine **how** we pray, not just **that** we pray. Do we come before God to be seen—or to be healed? Do we justify ourselves—or place ourselves entirely in His mercy?

In the end, the way up to God is always the way down. For *“everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

Sermon on Camping Ministry Sunday

Beloved in Christ,

We gather here each Sunday and all feast days where our hearts are lifted up by the promise we receive in St Matthew's gospel “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Although we receive spiritual nourishment through His words and His body and blood offered to us for the forgiveness of our sins, it is essential that we take these gifts outside the church building and into the world beyond.

St John Chrysostom encourages us to “Make your home a church, since you are accountable for the salvation of your wife and children.” He does not say, “Make it perfect,” or “Make it prosperous,” but make it a place where Christ is present. If where two or three are gathered together in Christ's name, there is Christ; how much more where husband, wife, and children are united in prayer.

The world tells us that families are held together by shared interests, by finances, or by emotions. But the Fathers of the Church tell us something far deeper: families are held together by prayer. When a family prays together, something sacred happens. The father learns to lead not by command, but by humility. The mother reflects the prayerful watchfulness of the Church. The children learn, not only how to speak to God, but how to listen. Prayer does not remove all conflict—but it transforms conflict. It teaches forgiveness before sleep, repentance before pride, and love before anger. As St Basil teaches, common prayer preserves harmony because it brings every heart back into right order.

When our Lord walked the earth, He did not build institutions before He formed households. He entered homes—Peter's home, Martha's home, Zacchaeus's home—and wherever He was received, that home was changed. This is not accidental. The Church has always understood the family to be the seedbed of salvation, the place where faith is first learned, practiced, and preserved.

St Gregory of Nazianzus speaks tenderly of learning prayer at the knees of his parents. Before theology was written, it was lived. Before sermons were preached, they were modeled. Children learn the faith not first by explanation, but by imitation. They learn: how their parents speak to God, how often they turn to Him, and whether prayer is central or optional. Even though our children are provided with wonderful models both in the church during our services and at home through prayer, they receive other models outside these “churches”.

All too often these models do not support their spiritual growth and offer alternatives that may lead them astray. Peer pressure and social media weigh in heavily on their development.

The first Sunday of February has been designated as camp ministry Sunday. We are reminded today that there is another "little church" where our children can gather together and come closer to Christ. It is a place where social media takes a back seat to prayer with peers. Where their counselors and teachers all hold and exhibit the same Orthodox values as they do. The programs offered there are geared to foster growth in faith and community support to all ages and abilities. They help the campers develop connections with others that support the love of Christ and the church. First and foremost, pray for our camp and its programs, the administrators and staff, the participants, that all the work they do brings one another closer to Christ. Our diocesan family is also held together by prayer for one another.

Participate in a program- programs like Family Fest during the Labor Day Weekend are open to all people of all ages. Encourage the youth in your life to attend the programs that are appropriate for their age and needs. Help to arrange travel so that all people can make their way to All Saints Camp. We will have flyers and more information following Liturgy to learn more about the specific programs.

Consider volunteering your time- just like the parents in the example given earlier, the staff at the programs are a living example of faith in action for the participants. The programs need cabin counselors, but they also need church school teachers, helpers who set up and clean up activities, teachers for special interest classes about nature, Ukrainian culture, church singing, etc.. The camp facility can use help with maintenance, kitchen work, and more. And of course, financial support is needed too. In order to make camp available to as many people as possible, the cost of registration does not cover the cost to run the programs. Many of the buildings at our beautiful camp are over 50 and even 75 years old, there are always maintenance needs to cover. Both the All Saints Camp facility and the programs rely on the generous donations of individuals and organizations.

Throughout the day today, more information about the Camping Ministry, including both the All Saints Camp property and the Programs the UOC of USA runs there, will be provided in parishes across our Diocese. There will be posts on social media and a live informational session on Zoom and YouTube this afternoon where you can learn more about the programs, ways to volunteer and ways to donate.

"Where two or three are gathered..." While we may not all be gathered together in one space, together we are all gathering in support of this essential ministry of our Church and God will surely be here to bless and provide abundantly for the ministry. Amen.

OUR PROGRAMS!

Our Mission: *The mission of our programs is to teach the Gospel & provide a place for Christian living.*

We do this by...

- *Providing a safe, Christ-centered, and joyful environment in which campers and staff members can discover more fully the gift of our Orthodox Christian Tradition.*
- *Daily interaction as a community of Orthodox Christians, gaining a greater appreciation for the Orthodox faith and building friendships based on Christian love.*

How do we do this?

- *Through participation in daily prayer services, Church School classes, and opportunities to live their faith*
- *Camp activities such as Swimming, Arts & Crafts, Sports, Music, Ukrainian Culture, service projects, Events(campfires, dances(zabavas), big game nights, talent shows and more) and especially through cabin and communal life.*

Special Considerations

- *Language - It is our goal to make ALL campers comfortable while with us. With this in mind, we try our best to provide sufficient bi-lingual staff (English/Ukrainian) for our Ukrainian speaking campers.*

Portions of the programs, as appropriate, are provided bi-lingually.

- *Dietary Concerns - We understand the growing need for accommodations for food allergies and incensitivities. There is a portion on the application to address this. The program director or kitchen facilitator may contact you discuss any needs or concerns.*

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2026! THEME - BLESSED ARE THE...

Regular Programs for Children 9-13

Diocesan Church School Camp - June 21 - 27, 2026

In 1975, Protospesbyter Fr. William Diakiw, who was then serving as the director of the Diocesan Church School Commission of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA approached the Hierarchy for their blessing to begin a camp for this age-group. With their enthusiastic response and blessing - Diocesan Church School Camp began!

Today, this one-week program retains the spirit initiated by Fr. Bill of instilling the faith in our children, providing an atmosphere to have joy and fun and learning about their Ukrainian heritage.

Regular Programs for Teens 13 - 18

Teenage Conference - June 28 - July 11, 2026

In 1958, Mr. Wasyly Pysh discovered a need amongst the youth of our church to gather together. Mr. Pysh, with the sponsorship of the Western Pennsylvania Region of the Ukrainian Orthodox League began Teenage Conference as a weekend encampment at Camp Kon-O-Kwee in Pennsylvania.

Today, this two-week program retains the spirit initiated by Mr. Pysh and the fellow founders of instilling the faith, fellowship and fun to our teens. In doing so, providing a safe atmosphere for teens to 'be themselves', live and learn about their faith freely and cultivate their Ukrainian heritage.

Programs for Families

Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me (MMDM) - July 19 - 23, 2026

In 2001, the Office of Youth Ministry along with the Office of Family Ministry witnessed the need to provide support for young families within the church. In addition, our ministry was looking to the future by preparing our youngest faithful to attend camp as individuals on their own at DCSC and TC. Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me has been going strong since then!

The five-day program allows for the children and parents to have time in specialized programming and family group activity. In addition, to our adult staff, each family is provided with a Big Brother or Big Sister to help ensure their time at camp is smooth and worry free.

St. Nicholas Program- Camping for Families with Disabilities - June 17 - 20

Beginning in 2015, St. Nicholas Program became the first Orthodox camping program for faithful and their families with unique needs. This program is designed to provide faithful with different abilities to enjoy the camping experience. Families members enjoy time for respite, spending time with their loved one and meeting other parents in special needs families.

Family Fest - Labor Day Weekend - August 28 - September 1, 2026

One of our longer running and beloved programs is Family Fest. Taking place over Labor Day weekend, this free of charge program gives All faithful the opportunity to enjoy our beautiful All Saints Camp. It is a leisurely weekend with opportunities to us all of the amenities at ASC. There may also be optional guest speakers, cultural activities and/or service projects available.

Clergy Family Retreat- July 23 - 24, 2026

An amazing opportunity for the clergy families of the UOC of the USA to utilize our beautiful All Saints Camp, to retreat from the world and take a respite from parish life.

To learn more: Camping Ministry Website - <https://www.uocyouth.org/campingministry>



Greetings to

Camilla Marie Woloschak

daughter of David & Alyssa Woloschak

**on receiving the Sacrament
of Baptism and Chrismation**

May these Sacraments of Baptism & Chrismation bring the Grace of God into Camilla's life and may the light of God's love shine brightly in her heart and guiding her every step of the way. As she begins this beautiful journey of faith, it's important to remember that she is a precious child of God, surrounded by love and blessings. May her life be filled with joy, peace, and the sweet fragrance of God's grace. Welcome to the family of faith, little one!

*With love and prayers,
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Family*

**Greetings to
Jacob Kornblum on
receiving the Holy Sacrament
of Baptism and Chrismation.
Welcome to the Church!**

It takes real courage to profess the faith in the world around us! May the good Lord bless your life with the blessings from heaven, helping you to stay on that narrow path that leads to salvation!

We pray that you always feel God's love shining down on you!



Reflections:

He Everything falls into place when the heart does not lose hope and does not try to control what only the Lord knows. **Patience is not inactivity, but a deep faith that God's timing is always better than ours.** We rush, we want results immediately, but the Lord teaches us to wait, because it is precisely in waiting that our heart is formed.



Sometimes it seems that doors are closing forever, but God is simply opening others—those that lead to true good. When you trust Him, even pain becomes a blessing, and losses turn into a path toward new life.

Trust in God is a light in the midst of darkness. It does not deny difficulties, but helps us pass through them with peace in the soul. For where we can do nothing more, God begins to act.

Do not rush to complain when something goes wrong. Perhaps this is exactly the moment when the Lord is saving you from what you cannot yet see. Everything has its meaning, even if it cannot be understood right now.

Patience and trust are the wings on which the soul rises above fear and doubt. The one who waits with faith does not lose, but gains. For in the end, everything falls into its place when the heart places everything into God's hands.

Remember, the Lord is never late. He comes precisely when the soul is ready to receive His blessing. And then everything that once hurt turns into peace, and everything that seemed lost finds new meaning in His love.



Hope is the quiet strength that keeps the heart steady when answers do not come right away. It does not shout or demand, but waits with trust, believing that God is at work even in silence. Hope teaches us to look beyond what we see now and to place our lives into God's hands. When everything feels uncertain, hope reminds us that the Lord has not abandoned us, and that His love is already preparing what is needed for tomorrow.

Orthodox Christianity 101

Kingdom of God

And of His kingdom there will be no end .

Jesus is the royal Son of David, of whom it was prophesied by the angel at His birth:

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end ([Lk 1.32–33](#)).

Through His sufferings as the Christ, Jesus achieved everlasting kingship and lordship over all creation. He has become “King of kings and Lord of lords,” sharing this title with God the Father Himself ([Deut 10.17](#); [Dan 2.47](#); [Rev 19.16](#)). As a man, Jesus Christ is King of the Kingdom of God.

Christ came for no other reason than to bring God’s kingdom to men. His very first public words are exactly those of His forerunner, John the Baptist: “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” ([Mt 3.2, 4.17](#)).

All through His life Jesus spoke of the kingdom. In the sermons such as the Sermon on the Mount and the many parables, He told of the everlasting kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven .

Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

He who does these commandments and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

But seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness, and all things will be yours as well.

Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

([Mt 5–7](#))

The mustard seed, the leaven, the pearl of great price, the lost coin, the treasure in the field, the fishing net, the wedding feast, the banquet, the house of the Father, the vineyard all are signs of the kingdom which Jesus has come to bring. And on the night of His last supper with the disciples He tells the apostles openly:

You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as My Father appointed a kingdom for Me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at My table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel ([Lk 22: 28–30](#); Reading of the Vigil of Holy Thursday).

Christ’s kingdom is “not of this world” ([Jn 18.31](#)). He says this to Pontius Pilate when being mocked as king, revealing in this humiliation His genuine divine kingship. The Kingdom of God, which Christ will rule, will come with power at the end of time when the Lord will fill all creation and will be truly “all, and in all” ([Col 3.11](#)). The Church, which in popular Orthodox doctrine is called the Kingdom of God on earth, has already mysteriously been given this experience. In the Church, Christ is already acknowledged, glorified, and served, as the only king and lord; and His Holy Spirit, whom the saints of the Church have identified with the Kingdom of God, is already given to the world in the Church with full graciousness and power.

The Kingdom of God, therefore, is a Divine Reality. It is the reality of God’s presence among men through Christ and the Holy Spirit. “For the Kingdom of God means peace and joy and righteousness in the Holy Spirit” ([Rom 14.17](#)). The Kingdom of God as a spiritual, divine reality is given to men by Christ in the Church. It is celebrated and participated in the sacramental mysteries of the faith. It is witnessed to in the scriptures, the councils, the canons, and the saints. It will become the universal, final cosmic reality for the whole of creation at the end of the ages when Christ comes in glory to fill all things with Himself by the Holy Spirit, that God might be “all and in all” ([1Cor 15.28](#)).



