

Sunday Bulletin
July 20th 2025 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost
The Holy, Glorious & All-Praised Leaders
of the Apostles, Peter & Paul



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



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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:

<http://www.stspeterpauluoc.org>

STS Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church *Let us celebrate the Resurrection of Christ*



Sunday Bulletin

July 20th 2025 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy, Glorious & All-praised Leaders
of the Apostles, Peter & Paul

Blessed Parish Feast Day of the Holy Apostles Peter & Paul

- bull 6

Welcome His Eminence Archbishop Daniel to our Parish

- bull 5

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Tone 5 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 Troparion (Sts. Peter and Paul)

O first-enthroned of the Apostles, and teachers of the universe: entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world,// and to our souls great mercy!

Tone 5 Kontakion (Resurrection)

You descended into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

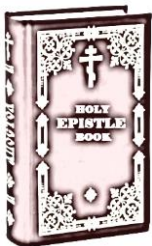
Tone 2 Kontakion (Sts. Peter and Paul)

O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest and to the enjoyment of Your blessings the two divinely inspired preachers, the leaders of the Apostles, for You have accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice,// for You alone know what lies in the hearts of men.

Tone 5 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

You, O Lord, shall protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.
V. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly! (Ps. 11:1a)

The Reading is from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans 12:6-14



Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Alleluia and Verses Tone 5

V. I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever;

with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

V. For You have said: Mercy will be established forever;

Your truth will be prepared in the heavens.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia



The reading is from the Gospel according to St. Matthew 9:1-8

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

The reading is from the Gospel according to St. Matthew 9:1-8 (Sts Peter & Paul)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

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

Arlene Hawryluk, Mary C. Moon, Lidiia Zabrodina, Metro Senedak, Eleanor K. Laise, Julian Naumenko, Patricia Huly, David Scharba, John Senediak, Ann & George Klein, Sophia Karpa, Iryna Farion, Charles Demetrios, Nun Antonina, Elaine Cartier, Betty Ewanish, Mary Gula, Mykola Prychodzenko, Oleksander Dmytro. Victims of the war in Ukraine.



PRAYER LIST



PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING, COMFORT, AND SPIRITUAL PEACE

Metropolitan Anthony, Archbishop Daniel, Sam, Peter Borovitcky, Lorenzo, Rick Wilson, Walter Malys, Tom Drabick, Walter Duzzny, Lori, Christine Kline, Jerry Zets, Larry, Darlene Moon, Jeff Smith, Soldier Ivan, Bernard Gnat, Dolly Mehalco, Jeff Ulbrich, Richard Scharba, Brittany, Matt, Stephen Shonn, Thelma Zemko, Artur Bohuslav, Bohdan, Lori Hayda, Shirley Duffy, Michele (Senediak) Caulder, Dobrodiyka Lilya, Sandy, Marilyn O'Leary, Alice Dobransky, Harold Owens, Dave Zylka, Marianne Carmack, Nicholas Yurchyk, Pauline Witkowsky, Eileen Maluk, Peter Anderson, Albert Auden, Michael Gino Maluk, Boris & Kathleen Vuksanovich, Kathy Zebel. People Suffering from any Illnesses. Ukrainian people suffering from war.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Lisa Hawryluk	16 Marianne Carmack
6 Jonathan Buzzelli	17 Annie Woloschak
6 Matthew Woloschak	17 Sue Perankovich
7 Rebeca Renee	17 Joseph Sanetrick
7 Sophia Zomchak	19 Kristofer Sirak
8 Charles Woloschak Jr	22 Bohdan Lyubuska
10 Paul Knoop	24 Joshua Zets
11 Michael Perankovich	24 Charlotte Anderson
12 Gina DeLuca	27 Lori Hayda
14 Thomas DeLuca Jr	28 Paul R. Bobersky
14 Joe Kramer	29 Monica Inchak
14 Oksana Koval	29 Anastasia Kichton
16 Dob. Ginny	30 Joey Rimedio
Yavorsky	31 Bruno Serrano

Welcome His Eminence Archbishop Daniel to our Parish

We are deeply honored and filled with joy to welcome His Eminence Archbishop Daniel to our parish. His presence among us is a profound blessing and a visible sign of the unity we share with the greater Church. As a shepherd of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, his visit brings spiritual encouragement, guidance, and the living connection to the apostolic faith we hold dear.

The presence of a bishop is always a sacred and significant event in the life of a parish. It reminds us that we are part of something much greater than ourselves — a Church that spans generations and continents. His Eminence comes not only as a leader, but as a father in Christ, whose prayers and wisdom strengthen the faithful and inspire us to deepen our commitment to the Gospel.

We thank God for this opportunity and warmly embrace Archbishop Daniel with heartfelt love and respect. May his visit renew our spirits, strengthen our community, and draw us closer to one another and to our Lord. Welcome, Your Eminence — our doors and hearts are open to you.



Liturgical Schedule & Feast Days

SERVICE AND FEAST DAY SCHEDULE



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

- Saturday, July 19, 1:00 PM – **Holy Baptism & Chrismation of Anthony Zomchak**
- Sunday, July 20, 9:30AM – **ARCHPASTORAL Divine Liturgy, 6th Sunday** after Pentecost
STS PETER & PAUL PARISH FEAST DAY – Archbishop Daniel will be Visiting our Parish
- Sunday, July 27, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy, 7th Sunday** after Pentecost (*Mt 9:27-35*)
- Sunday, August 3, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy, 8th Sunday** after Pentecost (*Mt 14:14-22*)
- Sunday, August 10, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy, 9th Sunday** after Pentecost (*Mt 14:22-34*)

Upcoming dates & events

- July 19 – **Baptism of Anthony Zomchak** – Saturday July 19 at 1:00PM. Everyone is invited.
- July 20 - **STS PETER & PAUL PARISH FEAST DAY** – Archbishop Daniel will be Visiting our Parish. Archpastoral Divine Liturgy at 9:30am. Fellowship after the Liturgy.
- July 27 – **Serbian Day Picnick**. From noon to 8 PM at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church at 39 Laird Ave. Live Music, Traditional Foods, Free Admission.
- August 2 – **Outing for the Parish Kids at Austintown Township Park's Pogany Pavilion** on Saturday, 2 August 2025 at noon. At 6000 Kirk Rd, Austintown, OH 44406
- August 23 – **Ukrainian Picnic - celebrating the Ukrainian Independence Day** - Aug 23 at 5pm
- September 27 – **Quarter Auction to Benefit Fr. Olynyk Scholarship Fund**

Bulletin Dedication

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

<u>Sun July 6</u> 1. Dedicated 2. Available	<u>Sun July 13</u> 1. Available 2. Available	<u>Sun July 20</u> 1. Available 2. Available	<u>Sun July 27</u> 1. Available 2. Available	
<u>Sun Aug 3</u> 1. Available 2. Available	<u>Sun Aug 10</u> 1. Available 2. Available	<u>Sun Aug 17</u> 1. Dedicated 2. Available	<u>Sun Aug 24</u> 1. Dedicated 2. Available	<u>Sun Aug 31</u> 1. Available 2. Available

For bulletin dedication please call – 330-799-3830 Fr Mykola

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD	On July 6	On July 13
General:	\$ 1435.00	\$ 2598.00
Renovation:	\$ 33.00	\$ 157.00
Online Donations on Tithe.ly	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00

‘Your sins are forgiven you’

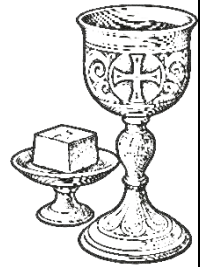
Matthew 5:8

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETINGS:

- **Happy and Blessed 4th Priestly Anniversary to Fr. Mykola on July 17. May the Good Lord bless Fr. Mykola`s ministry!**



- **Quarter Auction September 27**
Money to Benefit Fr. Olynyk Scholarship Fund
Seeking Donations: **cash , lottery tickets,**
gift cards and gas cards. NO GIFTS.

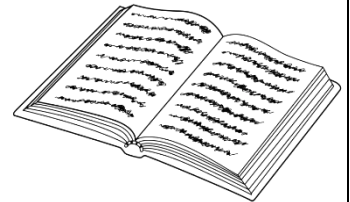


To make a donation (or for an additional information)
please call or text: Crystal – 330 766 6872 Yvonne – 330 402 8716
Let`s benefit our Scholarship Fund

- **The Story of My Life**

The Sts Peter & Paul **"The Story of My Life"** recognition continues its quest to recognize and highlight our beloved Sts Peter & Paul members who are a viral part of our parish.

If you know anyone from our parish who is 80 years old and older, please contact Fr Mykola or Diane Senedak. They will give you information and ideas of how you can complete a story about your family member. The story can be a paragraph, a page long or several pages along with some photos. It's up to you on how much you'd like to submit.



We all look forward to hearing about your family member's past and present....

Thank you for sharing your their story with our parish!

- In Christ, Fr. Mykola and Diane Senedak



- **Outing for the Parish Kids**

August 2 – **Outing for the Parish Kids at Austintown Township Park's Pogany Pavilion** on Saturday, 2 August 2025 at noon. At 6000 Kirk Rd, Austintown, OH 44406

- **Is Your Big Anniversary Coming Up?**

If you or a loved one are celebrating a wedding anniversary and would like it to be recognized with a special dedication in the bulletin, please let Fr. Mykola know.

We'd love to celebrate this joyful milestone with you!





Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
Metropolia Center – Office of the Consistory
† Antony, *Metropolitan and First Hierarch*

† Daniel, Archbishop and
Consistory President

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July 2, 2025

Holy Apostle Jude, the Brother of the Lord (80)

Rev. Mykola Zomchak
1025 N Belle Vista Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44509

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you..." Numbers 6:24-25

Dear brother in Christ Fr. Mykola: CHRIST IS AMONG US!

On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the 4th anniversary of your priestly ministry in our Lord's Holy Vineyard – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

The Holy Mystery of Priesthood is a blessing to the man who receives it as well as for the community who is served by a faithful priest. For the past 4 years, in answer to God's call and in consequence of your ordination, you Fr. Mykola, have proclaimed the Gospel and administered the Holy Mysteries in order that the portion of Christ's flock entrusted to your pastoral care continues to grow more closely united to Christ. As you reflect on these past years, I hope you find them a source of great satisfaction and fulfillment.

For all the gifts that you have received and shared in your ministry with those around you, and for the blessings of priestly service I join you in giving thanks to God, the Author of all life and Font of all love.

Thank you for being a priest of Christ and our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

With prayers in our Lord

+ Daniel

+Daniel,
Archbishop and brother in the Lord



Our Children`s Experience at All Saints Camp

SAM GOODGE:

All Saints Camp is a place I look forward to going to every year. My sister and I have gone to Mommy me Daddy me, DCSC, TC and have been on staff for Mommy me Daddy me.

It is a place where many friendships are made and memories are created. As a teenager, All Saints Camp allows me to deepen my faith alongside my peers.

All Saints Camp has many activities to bring people together and strengthen your faith.

- Sam Goodge

MARCIA GOODGE:

Going to All Saints Camp is a big part of my summer. I have been going to camp since I was 7 years old and I have gone to Mommy me Daddy me, DCSC, and Teenage conference and for the past 3 years I have been a big sister at Mommy me Daddy Me.

Camp is awesome because it's a mix of fun and faith. You get to do all sorts of cool activities like swimming, sports, and campfires, but you're also growing spiritually.

It's a great way to make new friends who share your beliefs and deepen your relationship with God.

One of my favorite camp memories was having a big water gun fight on the field with all of my friends.

- Marcia Goodge

JOEY RIMEDIO:

I am writing to say a huge THANK YOU for paying for me to go to All Saint's camp.

Because of your kindness, I got to have an amazing time at camp. I made new friends and ate a lot of s'mores at the campfire. It meant a lot to me.

I know it cost a lot to send us to camp and I am so grateful that you chose to help me. Thank you again for supporting kids in our church.

- Love, Joey.

ADDISON VISA RATLIFF:

All Saints Camp was the best week of my life!

We did Ukrainian dancing and singing. Every day we had church, school, and chapel. I loved singing in church. Father Ivan was with us. He was our priest.



I did a ton of fun things such as swimming, skits, art, and parties—especially glow night! Glow night almost got canceled, but thanks to praying, it was not.

I met a lot of new friends. Their names are Valerie, Izzy, Katirina, Thea, and many more. I can't wait to see them again!

- Addison Visa Ratliff

NICK YAROSH:

At church camp I had a lot of fun with friends. We had danced at the zabava and played sports. We swam at the pool and played with the floats.

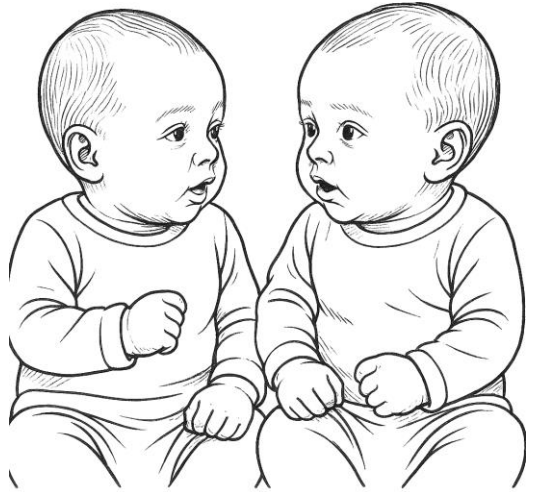
Every morning and evening we went to the chapel and prayed. We had church school and crafts. I learned a lot and. I had much fun at church camp.

Thank you for supporting my trip to camp.

- Nick Yarosh

Life After Delivery

- “Do you believe in life after delivery?”
- “There is. There must be something after delivery. Maybe we’re here to prepare ourselves for what’s coming next...”
- “And what kind of life would that be?”
- “Maybe there will be more light than here. Maybe we’ll walk with our legs... and eat with our mouths.”
- “Walk? That’s impossible! And eat? Don’t be ridiculous. The umbilical cord gives us everything we need. We can’t live without it.”
- “Maybe it’s a different kind of life — one where we don’t need the cord anymore.”
- “If life after delivery exists, then why hasn’t anyone ever come back from it?”
- “I don’t know. But at least... Mother will be there. She’ll take care of us.”
- “You really believe in Mother? If she exists, then where is she? Why isn’t she here now?”
- “She’s all around us. We’re surrounded by her. We are *of* Mother. Without her, you and I wouldn’t even exist.”
- “Well... I don’t see her. So it’s only logical she doesn’t exist.”
- “Sometimes... if you sit in silence, and really listen... you can hear her loving voice whispering from above...”



Jesus heals the paralytic

This passage invites us to look deeper than physical healing—into the realm of the heart and soul. When the friends of the paralyzed man bring him to Jesus, Jesus is moved not just by the man’s condition but by the faith of those who brought him. It reminds us that our prayers and efforts on behalf of others matter. Intercessory faith can open the door to healing and forgiveness for those we love.

Jesus’ first response, however, is not physical healing—it is to forgive sins. This surprises everyone, especially the religious leaders, who accuse Him of blasphemy. But Jesus is teaching something deeper: spiritual healing is even more essential than physical healing. He knows what the man needs most.

When Jesus says, “Take heart, son,” we see His compassion. He is not just healing a body, but restoring a person’s identity and dignity. The forgiveness of sins removes shame and alienation, making room for true wholeness.

Jesus then proves His divine authority by performing the physical miracle—healing the paralysis—to confirm that He has the authority to forgive sins. This dual action shows us that Christ's power is complete: over body and soul, sin and sickness, seen and unseen.

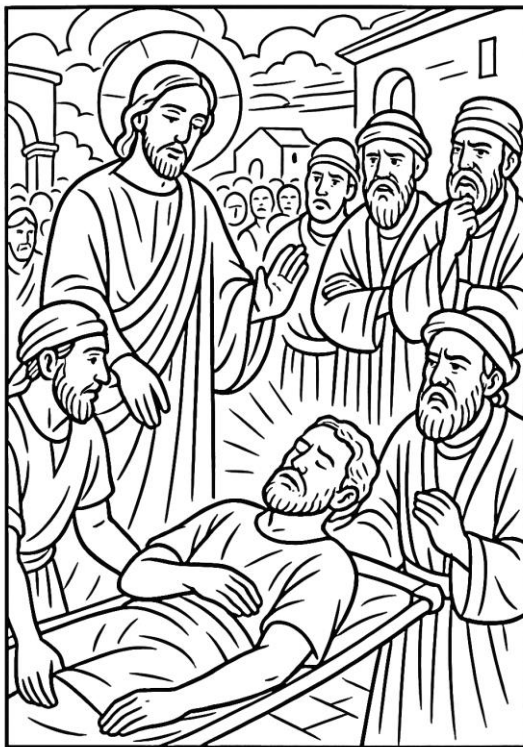
Personal Application:

Faith matters. The faith of the community around the paralyzed man helped lead to his healing. Who are we carrying in prayer today? Who needs our faithful support?

Jesus knows what we need most. We often come to Him asking for external solutions, but He looks deeper—to our hearts. Are we open to the healing He wants to do within?

Forgiveness brings freedom. The paralytic didn’t just walk home; he walked home forgiven and restored. Are there sins we need to release? Do we trust in Christ’s authority to forgive?

Praise is the right response. The crowd responded with awe and praise. Do we pause and thank God not just for visible blessings, but also for the hidden, soul-level grace He pours into our lives?



WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

A Scholar was once asked this question:

- WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

He answered:

In chemistry – He turned water into wine.

In biology – He was born of a Virgin.

In physics – He defied the law of gravity when He ascended into heaven.

In economics – He fed 5,000 people with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread.

In medicine – He healed the sick and the blind without anesthesia and even raised the dead.

In history – He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

In the eyes of law and authority – the government rests upon His shoulders, and He is the King of all earthly kings.

In religion – No one comes to the Father except through Him.

So who is He? – He is Jesus Christ!

The Son of God, who willingly became man so that, through His sacrifice, people could become children of God.

He has no slaves, yet He is called Master.

He held no academic degrees, yet they called Him Teacher.

He wrote no prescriptions, yet He was called Healer.

He had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world with His love.

He committed no crime, yet He was crucified.

He was buried, but He rose again!

He is alive!

He is with each of us – today and until the end of the age! Amen!



The Church is ...

- The Church is not where we come to be noticed, but where we come to notice those who feel invisible.
- It's not where we seek to be heard first, but where we learn to listen—especially to those whose voices tremble or go unheard elsewhere.
- It's not where we come to showcase our blessings, but where we come to share them—so no one leaves in need.
- It's not where we look for applause, but where we offer encouragement to the weary and forgotten.
- It's not a place to prove our strength, but where we humbly hold up those who are weak.
- It's not where we ask, "What do I get out of this?" but where we ask, "What can I give to someone else today?"
- It's not where we seek peace for ourselves alone, but where we become peacemakers for others in turmoil.
- It's not where we expect to be served, but where we gladly serve—even when no one is watching.
- It's not where we compare struggles, but where we sit with others in theirs without judgment or distraction.
- It's not where we escape life's messiness, but where we enter into the mess of others with compassion and grace.
- It's not where we come to unload our complaints, but where we come to listen to the silent cries of others—and help carry their crosses, just as Christ carried ours.
- The Church isn't about seeking comfort for ourselves, but about becoming comfort for someone else—offering a kind word, a silent prayer, a steady hand.
- It's not a place where we expect to be loved, but a place where we learn to love others as Christ loved: sacrificially, selflessly, and unconditionally—not just with words, but with presence and service.
- It's not a place where we expect a lit path to heaven, but a place where we become a light to others—shining in places of despair, injustice, and loneliness.
- The Church is a family of imperfect souls. It is not a gathering of perfect saints, but of sinners who keep showing up—who forgive each other, grow together, and strive to put others first and themselves last. Only then do they truly become the Church of Christ that through the Grace of God will be blessed.



Happiness is not in the vase that never breaks!

Story about two couples.

In a small town, two families lived nearby. In one — constant quarrels and blame. In the other — harmony and peace.

One day, the quarrelsome wife, watching the happy couple, couldn't take it anymore and said to her husband:

— “Go see what they're doing over there that everything runs so... smoothly.”

He listened and went. He quietly entered the neighbors' home and hid behind the curtains, observing. There — the wife was singing softly, the house was tidy, and the smell of pies filled the air. She was dusting an expensive vase and had just set it down. Then, distracted by the doorbell, she walked away...

The vase teetered on the edge of the table — as if waiting. Her husband walked in, searching for something, accidentally bumped the vase — it fell and shattered completely. The neighbor held his breath:

"Here it comes," he thought, "She's going to explode..."

But the woman simply sighed:

— “Forgive me, my love. I placed it carelessly...”

And the husband gently embraced her:

— “No, my dear... I was in a hurry and didn't see it. It's nothing. A vase is no tragedy.”

...The neighbor stood silently behind the curtain, his heart tightening. He returned home, saddened. His wife, as usual, greeted him with complaints:

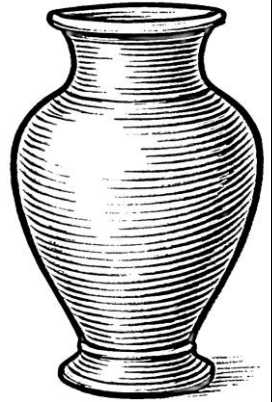
— “Well? Did you see them?”

— “I saw...”

— “And? What's their secret?”

— “Here... each one blames the other. Both are right. There... each one takes the blame. Both are being wrong.”

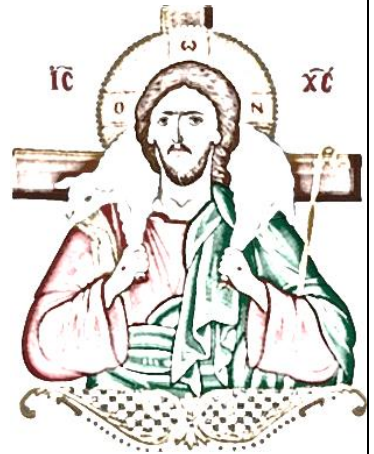
HAPPINESS is not in the vase that never breaks, but in the HANDS that gently piece it back together. In the SILENCE that listens, and the FORGIVENESS that doesn't judge. It's in choosing to be WRONG rather than to be RIGHT— to LOVE more than to WIN.



Orthodox Christianity 101

THE END OF HISTORY

From the very beginning, the Christian Church has lived in the expectation of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This belief is based on the words of our Lord, Who, shortly before His death on the Cross, promised His disciples that He would come again. Belief in the Second Coming of Christ is also reflected in the Catholic Epistles, as well as in the Pauline corpus. The teaching expressed in these texts can be summarized as follows. First, 'the day of the Lord' will come unexpectedly. Secondly, before this 'day' there will be a period of social unrest, natural disasters, wars, and persecutions of the Church. Thirdly, many pseudo-prophets and pseudo-christs will appear who will claim to be Christ and deceive many people. Next, the Antichrist will come, who will gain great power and influence on earth. And finally, the power of the Antichrist will be destroyed by Christ.




We may note the highly significant role of the Antichrist just before the end of history. In fact, it is his activity, directed against God and the Church, that will lead the world to its last day. Who, then, is this Antichrist? Throughout history many have attempted to describe his characteristics and to predict the time of his coming. Some saw him as a great *religious leader*, a sort of anti-god who would attempt to replace the true faith by some pseudo-religion: he would make people believe in him and not in the true Christ. Others saw in the Antichrist a great *political leader* who would gain power over the entire earth.

The figure of the Antichrist has consistently attracted the special attention of many people. Paradoxically, some Christians even seem to be more interested in the coming of the Antichrist than in Christ's final victory over him. The *eschaton* is often understood as a realm of fear: an imminent global catastrophe and devastation. The end of the world is not awaited with eagerness, as it was in early Christianity; rather it is feared and shuddered at with horror.

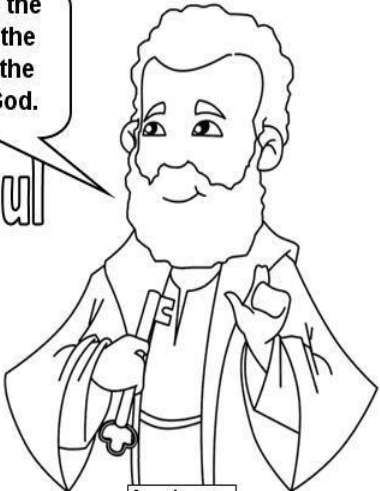
By contrast, New Testament and patristic eschatology is one of hope and assurance: it was Christ-centred rather than Antichrist-centred. When the apostles speak in their epistles of the nearness of Christ's Second Coming, they do it with great enthusiasm and hopefulness. They were not very much interested in the chronological nearness of the Second Coming; more importantly, they lived with a constant feeling of Christ's presence (the Greek word for 'coming', *parousia*, also means 'presence'). The early Church lived not by fear at the coming of the Antichrist, but by the joyous expectation of the encounter with Christ when the history of the world would end. The eschatological 'last times' begin at the very moment of the Incarnation of the Son of God and will continue right up until His Second Coming. The 'mystery of lawlessness', of which St Paul speaks, is already 'at work' (2 Thess.2:7); it will be more and more clearly revealed in history. Together with the uncovering of evil, however, there will also be the activity of humanity's inner preparation to encounter its Saviour. The battle between Christ and the Antichrist will end with the former's glorious victory. The sight of Christians is directed to

this victory, not to the time of turmoil that will precede it, a time which has, in fact, already begun and may continue for a long time to come.

The end of the world will mean the liberation of humanity from evil, sufferings and death, and its transformation and movement to another mode of existence, whose nature is not yet known to us. Of this glorious outcome of human history, St Paul speaks as follows: ‘Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, than shall come to pass the saying written: “Death is swallowed up in victory”’ (1 Cor.15:51-54).





I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.



You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Saints Peter And Paul





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