Sunday Bulletin July 6th 2025 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant



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



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Orthodox Church
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Fr. Mykola Zomchak Pastor

> Anna Anderson Choir Director

Chuck Woloschak
President of the Church Council

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:

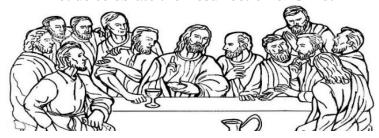
http://www.stspeterpauluoc.org





STS Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Let us celebrate the Resurrection of Christ



Sunday Bulletin

July 6th 2025 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

In Memory of Betty Ewanish

- bull 6

Happy 25th Anniversary to Tricia & Ryan McCabe - bull 16

Blessed Independence Day of the United States of America

• Liturgical Schedule

- bull 5
- Announcements & Greetings:
- bull 7
- o UOL Western PA/OH Regional Event
- o Invitation To Baptism of Anthony Zomchak
- Quarter Auction
- o The Story of My Life
- o Christmas in July Sisterhood Party
- Outing for the Parish Kids
- o Got an Anniversary?
- Healing of the Centurion's Servant bull 9
- Independence Day of the USA bull 10
- UOL western PA/OH Regional Event bull 11
- Orthodox Christianity 101

- bull 14

Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

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

Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day You rose 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 Your power.

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Ressurection)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises! V. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

The Reading is from the Letter of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans 6:18-23



And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free

from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

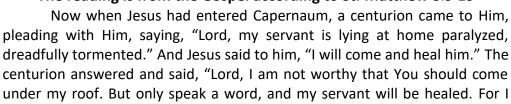
Alleluia and Verses Tone 3

V. May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

V. Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call! (Ps. 19:9)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The reading is from the Gospel according to St. Matthew 8:5-13



also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to

you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.



Communion Hymn

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

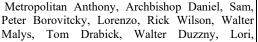
MEMORY ETERNAL

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 Prychodczenko, Oleksander Dmytro. Victims of the war in Ukraine.

PRAYER LIST

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING, COMFORT, AND SPIRITUAL PEACE



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.

"Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you"

Matthew 8:13.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

6 Jonathan Buzzelli 6 Matthew Woloschak 7 Rebeca Renee 7 Sophia Zomchak 8 Charles Woloschak Jr 10 Paul Knoop 11 Michael Perankovich 12 Gina DeLuca 14 Thomas DeLuca Jr 14 Joe Kramer 14 Oksana Koval

16 Dob. Ginny

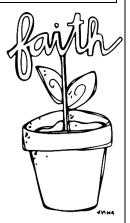
Yavorskyy

1 Lisa Hawrvluk

16 Marianne Carmack
17 Annie Woloschak
17 Sue Perankovich
17 Joseph Sanetrick
19 Kristofer Sirak
22 Bohdan Lyubuska
24 Joshua Zets
24 Charlotte Anderson
27 Lori Hayda
28 Paul R. Bobersky
29 Monica Inchak
29 Anastasia Kichton
30 Joey Rimedio
31 Bruno Serrano



(F) FORWARDING (A) ALL (I) ISSUES (T) TO



Liturgical Schedule & Feast Days

SERVICE AND FEAST DAY SCHEDULE

- * (Hearing Confessions on Sundays before Liturgy 8:30am 9:15am)
- Sunday, July 6, 9:30AM **Divine Liturgy, 4**th Sunday after Pentecost (Mt 8:5-13)
- Sunday, July 13, 9:30AM Divine Liturgy, 5th Sunday after Pentecost (Mt 8:28-9:1)
- 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 12 Christmas in July Sisterhood party at noon at Rachel's.
 July 12 UOL Western PA/OH Regional Event at Mill Creek Park on Sat, July 12 (bull p. 11)
 Exploring the Gardens 2 PM. Potluck Picnic 5 PM
- 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.
- 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

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD	On June 22	On June 29
General:	\$ 1216.00	\$ 2560.00
Renovation:	\$ 611.00	\$ 90.00
Online Donations on Tithe.ly	\$	\$ 40.00

Bulletin Dedication

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

				<u> </u>
Sun June 1	Sun June 8	Sun June 15	Sun June 22	Sun June 29
1. Available	1. Dedicated	1. Dedicated	1. Available	1. Dedicated
2. Available				
Sun July 6	Sun July 13	Sun July 20	Sun July 27	
1. Dedicated	1. Available	1. Available	1. Available	
2. Available	2. Available	2. Available	2. Available	

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

"Only speak a word, and my servant will be healed"



IN MEMORY OF



ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING AWAY

+ JULY 15, 2024



"JESUS SAID TO HER, "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE, EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE"

JOHN 11:25

LOVINGLY MISSED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS



ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETINGS:



• Calling for Photos!

We are gathering group photos from First Confession and Graduate Honoring celebrations at our Sts. Peter and Paul Parish from 2010 to 2022. We realized we are missing some of them.

If you have the group pictures from the events on those years, please bring them to Fr. Mykola or email them to stspeterpauluoc@gmail.com.

We plan to display them downstairs along with the other parish photos displayed from the past years. Thank you for your help in preserving our parish history!

• UOL Western PA/OH Regional Event

This event consists of a self-guided tour of Fellows Riverside Gardens in Youngstown, OH, followed by a potluck picnic at Mill Creek Park on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 2 PM.

Please see the flyer for details – bulletin p. 11.

RSVP Shirley Duffy: 412-518-0912 or at shirleykduffyesq@gmail.com.



YOU'RE INVITED TO A BAPTISM!

Please join us for the **Holy Baptism & Chrismation**of Anthony Zomchak

Saturday, July 19

1:00 PM

🖁 Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

His Eminence Archbishop Daniel will be celebrating the Sacrament. This is a joyful and blessed occasion for our family, and **everyone is**

warmly invited to attend and share in this sacred moment.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

A **festive lunch** will follow the sacrament at the hall.

Please RSVP by July 13 to Fr. & Pani Zomchak at 330-799-3830 to help us prepare.

We look forward to celebrating this special day with you!

• Quarter Auction September 27, 2025

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

• Christmas in July Sisterhood party on July 12 at noon at Rachel`s.

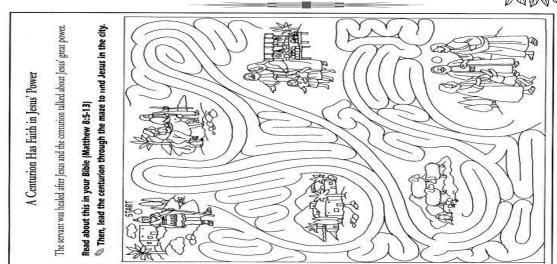


• Outing for the Parish Kids August 2 – Outing for the Parish Kids at Austintown Township Park's Pogany Pavilion on Saturday, 2 August 2025 at noon. At 6000 Kirk Rd, Austintown, OH 44406

• Is Your Big Anniversary Coming Up?

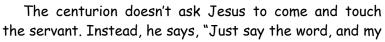
If you or a loved one are celebrating a wedding anniversary and would like it to be recognized with a special dedication in the bulletin, please let Fr. Mykola know. We'd love to celebrate this joyful milestone with you!



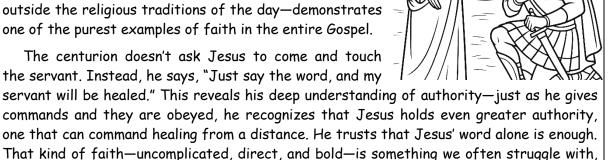


Healing of the Centurion's Servant Example of Faith

When we read the story of the centurion who comes to Jesus on behalf of his sick servant, we're struck by something unexpected: this Roman officer—someone outside the religious traditions of the day—demonstrates one of the purest examples of faith in the entire Gospel.



especially when we want signs or certainty.



But the centurion's faith is not just about belief—it's rooted in humility. Though a man of power, he doesn't presume to have earned Jesus' attention. He says plainly that he is not worthy to have Jesus come to his home. It's in that low posture—recognizing his need and Jesus' greatness—that his faith becomes powerful.

We also notice something beautiful: he's not asking for himself, but for his servant. He uses his position not to serve his own interests but to plead for someone under his care. This is the kind of faith that moves God—a faith that acts out of compassion and love for others.

And perhaps most surprising of all, Jesus marvels at this man's faith. In a moment, the usual boundaries of religion and culture are shattered. Here is a Gentile, a Roman, yet Jesus lifts him up as a model of belief—more so than anyone in Israel at that time.

This story challenges us. Do we trust Jesus to work even when we don't feel Him close? Are we willing to admit our need, to humble ourselves and say, "Lord, I'm not worthy—but I believe You can still move"? Do we come to Him not just for ourselves, but for the healing of others?

Jesus honors that kind of faith. And through this simple yet powerful moment, He shows us that healing, grace, and salvation are offered to all who truly believe.

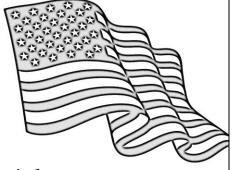
So my dear brothers and sisters, let us have the Faith Without Borders, let us believe in the Power of Christ's Word, let us have True Humility and let us impress our Lord with the Trust in Him!

Independence Day of the USA Reflection with a Prayer

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

- Psalm 33:12...

On this day, July 4th, we celebrate the birth of a nation - an experiment in liberty, founded on ideals of equality, justice, and the God-given dignity of every person. We wave



flags and enjoy parades, but let us also pause to reflect on the soul of our country.

Freedom is not merely the absence of oppression; it is the presence of virtue. It calls us to build a society where truth is honored, the vulnerable are protected, and love of neighbor guides our decisions.

As Christians, our allegiance to Christ shapes how we live as citizens. We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this country - freedom to worship, to speak, to assemble - but we also take seriously the command to love and serve. Our faith reminds us that the well-being of a nation depends not only on its policies, but on the hearts of its people that are blessed by God.

Let us celebrate this Independence Day with gratitude - and with a renewed commitment to be peacemakers, truth-bearers, and faithful stewards of the Liberty we've inherited.

Prayer for the United States on Independence Day

Gracious Lord,

We thank You for this land we call home, for the beauty of its mountains and plains, its cities and small towns. We are grateful for the freedoms we enjoy ~ for those who protect them, and for those who gave their lives so we could live in liberty.

On this day, we remember the founding of our country and the high ideals on which it was built. Help us to be worthy of that legacy. Where we have failed as a nation – through injustice, division, or pride – bring healing and renewal.

Bless our leaders with wisdom and humility. Bless our communities with peace and understanding. May we always remember that true freedom is found not in power, but in love – love for You and love for one another.

Lord, make us instruments of unity in a divided time. May our nation be a beacon of hope, compassion, and justice – not just for ourselves, but for the world.

In Your Holy Name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

God Bless the United States of America!

- Rev Mykola



Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA REGIONAL FAMILY EVENT

Western PA and Eastern Ohio Sr. and Jr. UOL Chapters & Members at Large

2:00 PM - Saturday, July 12, 2025 Explore Fellows Riverside Gardens

123 McKinley Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44509

Then Enjoy a Festive

5:00 PM - POTLUCK PICNIC Old Log Cabin in Mill Creek Park

Price Rd, Youngstown, OH 44509

Old Log Cabin is a half a mile from Fellows Riverside Gardens (123 McKinley Ave, Youngstown, OH 44509) * Head east toward Weaver Rd * At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit onto Weaver Rd * Turn right onto Price Rd * Destination will be on the right Old Log Cabin Price Rd, Youngstown, OH 44509

We'll provide:

Hot dogs, buns & condiments * Pizza * BQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches * Cold Cuts: Ham, Turkey, Cheese * Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches * Bottled Water, Coffee, Tea,

Please bring something to share

Salads or side dishes (kitchen available: range, sink, microwave) * Chips & dips, Veggies * cheese & crackers *Desserts, soft drinks

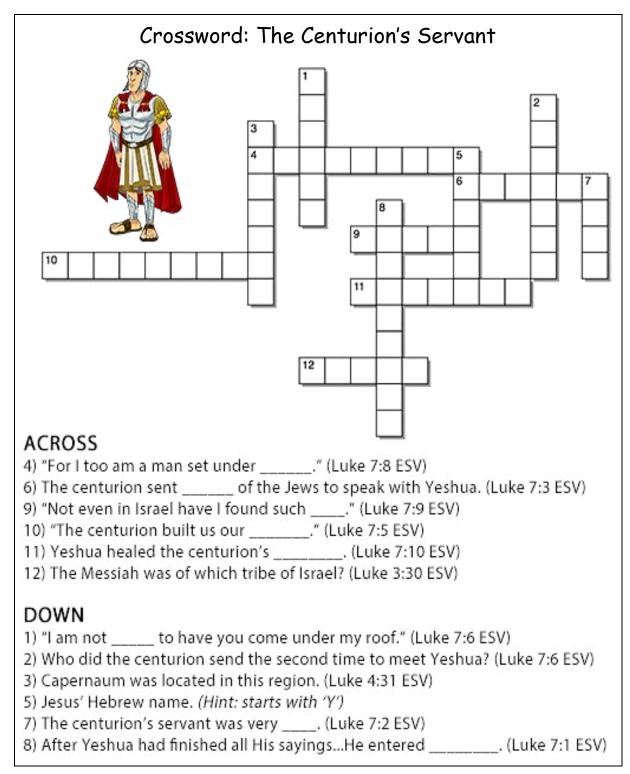
Text, email or call to let us know if you plan to attend, include your name and cell phone number, potluck contribution, your choice of, ham or turkey and cheese or peanut butter jelly sandwiches:

Shirley Duffy - 412-518-0912

shirleykduffyesa@amail.com

With heartfelt thanks to the Senior UOL Chapters of:

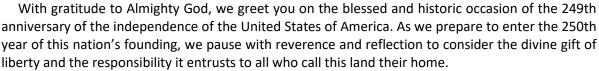
Sts. Peter and Paul – Carnegie, PA and Sts. Peter and Paul – Youngstown, OH for their generous donations making this event possible.



Statement of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA On the Occasion of the 249th Anniversary of American Independence - July 4, 2025

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America,

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



In 1776, a courageous assembly of leaders proclaimed to the world a new experiment in human dignity and governance, grounded in the radical affirmation that all men are "created equal," endowed by their Creator with "unalienable Rights" to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This declaration echoed a biblical truth long cherished by the faithful: that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27), and is thus inherently worthy of dignity, justice, and freedom.

As Ukrainian Orthodox Christians - many of whom are descendants of immigrants who came to these shores seeking religious freedom and opportunity - we offer a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for the blessings of liberty, and for the democratic ideals that have shaped this nation and provided sanctuary to the persecuted and a voice to the voiceless.

This nation's journey, like that of ancient nations and every people striving for righteousness, has not been without hardship. Across the span of nearly two and a half centuries, America has wrestled with profound moral and social challenges - slavery and racial injustice, the struggle for civil rights, wars abroad and conflicts at home, political divisions, and threats to the sanctity of human life and conscience. Yet in every trial, the nation's strength has been rekindled when it remembered the source of its hope: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

Today, as citizens of a 21st-century world defined by technological advancement, cultural complexity, and geopolitical tension, we are called to renew the founding vision of this republic - a vision where freedom is not license, but a sacred trust; where speech is not noise, but a channel for truth; where government is not power, but service; and where every human life is not disposable, but a reflection of divine light.

We reaffirm, as Orthodox Christians, the sanctity of life at every stage, the freedom of religious conscience, and the importance of civil discourse shaped by truth, compassion, and humility. We pray that our society may always protect the rights of individuals to live in dignity, raise families, pursue education, and worship freely according to the dictates of their conscience.

As our nation's motto boldly declares, "In God We Trust." In this trust, we find the wellspring of hope for a future grounded in moral clarity and spiritual renewal. As Orthodox Christians, we are reminded by the Apostle Paul, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17). True freedom, both for the individual and for a people, comes not only from political liberation but from spiritual transformation. As we enter the 250th year of the American story, let



us recommit ourselves - personally, communally, and nationally - to walk in the light of God's commandments, to raise children who seek virtue, and to build communities rooted in compassion, service, and peace.

In this solemn moment, we also raise our hearts in profound gratitude to the government and people of the United States of America for their unwavering support of the people of Ukraine during the brutal aggression of the Russian Federation. The defense of Ukraine is not merely a matter of politics or policy - it is a defense of truth over tyranny, of freedom over fear, and of the sacred dignity of a sovereign people determined to live in peace and liberty.

We, as bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, pledge our continued prayers for the United States, for its leaders and citizens, and for the deepening of the friendship between our two nations. May this partnership, rooted in shared values and human solidarity, grow ever stronger as we face the challenges of our time with courage and unity.

On this Independence Day, we ask God to bless America - its people, its institutions, and its future. May the Lord grant wisdom to its leaders, peace to its cities, protection to its defenders, and justice to all who live within its borders. And may He continue to guide this nation along the path of righteousness, for His name's sake.

With joy and solemnity, we offer heartfelt congratulations to all Americans on this 249th celebration of liberty. May God bless each of you and this land which we call our earthly home.

With prayerful best wishes,

+Antony

Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, Primate

+Daniel

Archbishop of the Western Eparchy of the UOC of the USA, President of the Consistory

Orthodox Christianity 101

PRIESTHOOD

The sacrament of Priesthood includes three liturgical rites of ordination: to the episcopate, to the priesthood and to the diaconate.

According to the present tradition of the Orthodox Church, bishops are chosen from among the monks. In the early Church there were married bishops: St Paul says a bishop must be 'the husband of one wife' (1 Tim.3;2). However, even in the early centuries, preference was given to monastic or celibate clergy. Thus among the holy bishops of the fourth century only St Gregory of Nyssa was married, while St Athanasius, St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian, and St John Chrysostom were celibate. Priests and deacons in the Orthodox



Church can be either monastic or married. However, marriage is possible for clergy only before ordination and only once: those married a second time are not allowed to become priests or deacons.

The ordination into hierarchical ranks has from the apostolic times onwards been accomplished through the laying of hands (Greek *cheirotonia*). According to the Church's rules, a priest and a deacon must be ordained by one bishop; a bishop, by several bishops (no less than three or two). Ordinations take place during the Liturgy. A bishop is ordained after the singing of 'Holy God'; a priest, after the Cherubic Hymn; and a deacon, after the consecration of the Holy Gifts.

Episcopal ordination are especially solemn. A priest who is to be ordained bishop enters the altar through the 'royal doors' and goes three times around the holy table, kissing its four corners; the clergy and the choir sing the *troparia* from the rite of Marriage. The one being ordained then bends his knees before the holy table, and the hierarchs lay their hands on his head, with the presiding celebrant reading the prayer of ordination: 'The grace divine, which always healeth that which is infirm and completeth that which is wanting, through the laying-on of hands elevateth thee, the most God-loving Archimandrite, (name), duly elected, to be the Bishop of the God-saved cities, (names). Wherefore let us pray for him, that the grace of the All-holy Spirit may come upon him'. Following this, while *Kyrie eleison* ('Lord, have mercy') is sung by the clergy and the choir, the first hierarch reads other prayers. The newly-ordained bishop is then clothed in episcopal vestments, while the people (or the choir) exclaim *Axios* ('He is worthy!'). This exclamation is the only trace of the ancient practice of the election of bishops by all the faithful.

Ordinations to the priesthood and to the diaconate follow the same order: the one who is being ordained enters the altar, goes around the holy table, kissing its corners, bends his knees (or only one knee, as in the case of a deacon); the bishop lays his hands and reads the prayers of consecration over the newly-ordained; and the latter is then clothed in his priestly (or diaconic) vestments with the *Axios* sung by people.

The singing of the *troparia* from the rite of Marriage has a special meaning in the ordination to the hierarchical ranks: it shows that the bishop (or priest, or deacon) is betrothed to his diocese (or parish). In the early Church it was very unusual either for a bishop to change his diocese, or for a priest, his parish. As a rule, an ecclesiastical appointment was for life. Even the Patriarch was chosen not from the bishops of a particular patriarchate, but from the lower clergy, in some cases even from the laity. The Orthodox Church ascribes a very high significance to the sacrament of Priesthood, for with it the church community receives its new pastor. Despite everything that has been written and said about the 'royal priesthood' of all believers, the Church also recognizes the difference between lay people and an ordained priest, the latter being entrusted with the celebration of the Eucharist, and having the power of 'binding and loosing'. Ordination into a hierarchical rank, be it of bishop, priest or deacon, is not only a change of status for someone, but also, to a certain extent, a transition to another level of existence.

In the Orthodox Church, priests and bishops are regarded as bearers of divine grace, as instruments through which God Himself acts. When receiving a priest's blessing, the faithful sometimes even kiss his hand as if it were Christ's hand, because it is by Christ's power that he gives the blessing. This sense of holiness and dignity in priestly ministry is weakened in some Christian denominations. In certain Protestant communities the only difference between the laity and the clergy is that the latter have a 'licence to preach'.

