

Sunday Bulletin
June 1st 2025 – 7th Sunday of Pascha
Ascension of the Lord



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



Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian
Orthodox Church

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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

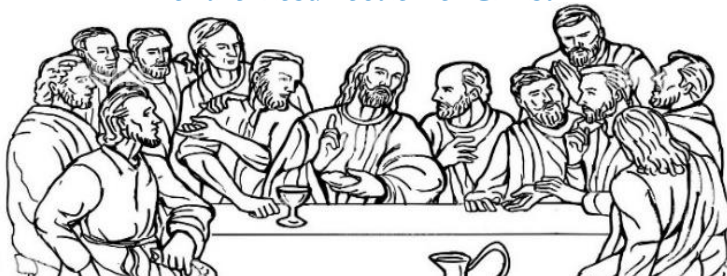
Website:

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STS Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

*We invite you to a celebration
of the Resurrection of Christ*



Sunday Bulletin

June 1st 2025 – 7th Sunday of Pascha

Ascension of the Lord

Church School Promotion & Awards Day

- bull 6

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The First Antiphon

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples. Shout to God with
loud songs of joy! (Ps. 46:1)

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O
Savior, save us!

For the Lord, the Most High is terrible; a great God over all
the earth. (Ps. 46:2) (Refrain)

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. (Ps. 46:3) (Refrain)
God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! (Ps. 46:5) (Refrain)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. (Refrain)

The Second Antiphon

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God. (Ps. 47:1a)

Refrain: O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

Mount Zion in the far north is the city of the Great King. (Ps. 47:2) (Refrain)

Within her citadels God is known when He defends her. (Ps. 47:3) (Refrain)

For lo, the kings assembled; they came on together. (Ps. 47:4) (Refrain)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(“Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God... ”)

The Third Antiphon

Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world! (Ps. 48:1)

Tone 4 Troparion

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing, they were assured that You are the Son of God,// the Redeemer of the world!



V: The earth-born and the sons of men, rich and poor together. (Ps. 48:2)

V: My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

V: I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle in psalmody. (Ps. 48:4)

V: God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! (Ps. 46:5)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit....

Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body. You captured hell, not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead,// glory to You.

...now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen!

Tone 6 Kontakion (Ascension)

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united earth to heaven: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love You, but remaining with them and crying:// “I am with you, and there is no one against you!”

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; / and Your glory be over all the earth!

V. My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. I will sing and make melody.



The Reading is from the Acts of the Holy Apostles Acts 1:1-12

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

Alleluia and Verses Tone 8

V. Look upon me and have mercy on me! (Ps.118:132a)

V. Guide my steps according to Your word! (Ps. 118:133a)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia



The reading is from the Gospel according to St. Luke 24:36-53

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"

So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Instead of “it is right in truth”

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven!
We the faithful, with one accord, magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding, gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

Communion Hymn

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

MEMORY ETERNAL

PLEASE PRAY FOR RESTING OF THE SOULS

Arlene Hawryluk, Mary C. Moon, 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, 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.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4 Kathleen Vuksanovich	9 Jordan Duzzny
4 David McCormick	11 Joe Novicky
4 Gayle Woloschak	12 Nichole Spencer
5 Mila Woloschak	16 Diane Senedak
5 Frank Senediak	21 Sarah Moon
6 Kaden Crown	21 Sydney Moon
6 Lisa Davis	22 Maria Battisti
7 Catie Rose Duzzny	23 Bobbi Yarosh
7 Michael Duzzny	23 Mike Moon
7 Katherine Battisti	24 Anna Ratliff
8 Nicholas Duzzny	26 Darlene Moon
9 Joe Rimedio	28 Mark C. Demetrius

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



• Let it be known to you of the Impending Marriage of **Peter Majetich**, son of *Steven & Elaine Majetich* with **Katherine Anderson**, daughter of *David & Anna Anderson*. The wedding is June 28, 2025.

• **UOL Juniors sold over \$435 worth of tickets with the lottery board!**

• **Recognition of our Parish Graduates:**

Our parish graduates will be honored on Sunday, June 15, after Liturgy at the Center. Please come and celebrate the accomplishments of our parish youth! If you have a high school or college graduate in your family - please give a short biography and picture of the graduate to Fr. Mykola by Sunday, June 1st, so they can be included in the Sunday bulletin on June 15.



• **Church School Promotion & Awards Day**

As we wrap up another wonderful school year, we want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our amazing students:

Sam Goodge, Marcy Goodge, Joey Rimedio,
Nick Yarosh, Addison Ratliff, Zach McCormick,
Avery McCormick, Joey Sanetrick, Addy Sanetrick,
Sophia Zomchak, Katherine Zomchak, Bailey Blair,
Ethan Rhodes, Linda Serrano,
Mila Woloschak, and Teagan Woloschak



You have all grown not just in knowledge, but in faith, love, and joy. We are so proud of you and the way you've embraced both learning and living out your faith!

A special thank you to our dedicated teachers, who have done a truly wonderful job guiding, inspiring, and caring for our children with such faithfulness and love. Your time, effort, and patience are deeply appreciated.

We also want to thank the parents and families—your encouragement, commitment, and bringing your children to church and church school week after week makes all the difference. Thank you for planting seeds of faith that will grow for a lifetime.

May this summer be filled with rest, fun, and many blessings. And may each of you carry God's love wherever you go.

With love and prayers,

Father Mykola and Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church School Team

• **Congratulations to Ethan and Sarah Rhodes on receiving the sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation!**

Congratulations to Ethan Rhodes who is receiving the Holy Sacrament of **Baptism!**

Also to Sarah Rhodes who is receiving the Holy Sacrament of **Chrismation!**

Today marks the beginning of your new life in Christ, and we are so happy to welcome you into the family of the Church.

Through the waters of Baptism, you will be clothed in Christ and through the Holy Chrism at the Chrismation you will receive the Holy Spirit. May this event also assure you both of being surrounded by the prayers and love of your church family.

May God's light always shine in your hearts, and may you grow in faith, love, and joy all the days of your life. We are so blessed to witness this sacred step in your spiritual journey.

With prayers & blessings,

Fr Mykola & Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Parish Family



Kindness

makes you the most beautiful person in the world no matter what you look like.

Set an example.
Treat everyone with **kindness** and respect, even those who are rude to you — not because they are nice, but because you are.



KINDNESS **SPREAD**
"KINDNESS IS FREE TO GIVE, BUT PRICELESS TO RECEIVE."
kindness
* **WHEREVER**
you go
*

Liturgical Schedule & Feast Days

SERVICE AND FEAST DAY SCHEDULE



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

- Sunday, June 1, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy**, 7th Sunday, Ascension of the Lord
Church School Promotion & Awards Day
- Sunday, June 8, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy**, 8th Sunday, PENTECOST - Trinity Sunday
First Confession.
- Sunday, June 15, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy**, 1th Sunday after Pentecost
Recognition of our Parish Graduates. Fellowship for the **Graduates/Father's Day**
- Sunday, June 22, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy**, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
- Sunday, June 29, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy**, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
- Sunday, July 6, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy**, 4th Sunday after Pentecost
- Sunday, July 13, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy**, 5th Sunday after Pentecost
- Sunday, July 20, 9:30AM – **Divine Liturgy**, 6th Sunday after Pentecost
– Sts Peter & Paul Parish Feast Day

Upcoming dates & events

- June 1 - **Church School Promotion & Awards Day**
- June 8 - **First Confession.**
- June 15 - **Recognition of our Parish Graduates.** Fellowship for the **Graduates/Father's Day**
- July 23-27, 2025 - UOL Convention in Florida – SAVE the DATE – July 23-27, 2025.

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD	On May 11	On May 18
General:	\$ 1568.05	\$ 1561.00
Renovation:		\$ 84.00
Online Donations on Tithe.ly	\$ 65.00	\$ 40.00

Bulletin Dedication

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

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

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

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world"

- John 9:5



Join us in the
FUNDRAISER
to help fight
BREAST CANCER
at Sts Peter & Paul



**BEST BINGO
IN TOWN!**



Profits benefit: **Joanie Abdu**

Breast Care Center

B	I	N	G	O
8	12	30	16	26
4	19		21	44
1			29	6
5		41	17	46

Fun
Prizes
Great Cause

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
Doors: 4pm | Start: 6:45pm

We're at 1025 N Belle Vista Ave

Help us to make this
Charitable Event
successful!

Offer your time as
volunteers
or come and play to
support the charity!

Wednesday, June 4

The Ascension of Jesus

T V F G J H U A F D C R I H V Q F
Y K N I W B C X O S H S S G O K
J C Y A Y K F G A G W Z R U Q N A
R E F A I R D O A A X A C A X S
T M R F P R P F R L D R E O P R C
N P T U J E A L S T I J L W O L E
U T P L S L T M F S Y L B P S D N
X F F L Y A Z V A U H D E N T X S
M B Y K N M L N D S K G A E L H I
H E A V E N M E I E Q E K Y E R O
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E B F B D X R T A K T I R D X H M
E T I U A R E H T A F L K F F X G
M P J B T I H O L Y S P I R I T X

Holy Spirit Forty Days Jerusalem Ascension
Baptized Apostles Galilee Samaria
Kingdom Heaven Israel Father
Judea Jesus Gift God

Reflection on the Ascension of Our Lord

The Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, celebrated 40 days after Pascha (Easter), is a moment of both mystery and glory. It marks the end of Jesus' earthly appearances after His Resurrection and the beginning of His exaltation at the right hand of the Father. But it is not an ending—it is a transformation of His presence among us.

When the disciples stood gazing into the sky as Jesus was taken up, they were filled with awe and perhaps confusion. Their beloved Teacher, who had conquered death, was now leaving them again. But this time, His departure came with a promise: *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you"* (Acts 1:8). The Ascension was not abandonment—it was empowerment. It was the beginning of the Church's mission in the world.

The Lord did not ascend to leave us behind, but to lift us up with Him. As we sing in the Kontakion of the feast:

"You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit; through the blessing they were assured, that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world."

In His Ascension, Christ takes our humanity into heaven. He opens heaven to us—not just as a future hope, but as a present reality. We are invited to live now as citizens of heaven, even as we walk on earth. Our mission, like that of the apostles, is to witness His love, His truth, and His victory over death in the world.

The feast of the Ascension invites us to lift up our hearts—not to escape the world, but to engage it with the confidence that Christ reigns over all. It reminds us that the same Jesus who walked with the disciples walks with us still, though now in a deeper, spiritual way. And it urges us to live not as people of despair, but as those who have seen the Risen and Ascended Lord and are waiting for His glorious return.

HOW IS THE ASCENSION IMPORTANT TO US:

- **The Ascension is the completion of Christ's salvific mission on earth**

Just as the Resurrection is the victory over death, the Ascension is the enthronement of Christ in glory, affirming His divine nature and His triumph as the Messiah.

- **Christ's Ascension is a pledge of our own exaltation**

In taking our human nature into heaven, Christ shows us our destiny: to be raised with Him and share in the divine life. *"Where the Head has gone, the Body hopes to follow."*

- **The Ascension marks the beginning of the Church's mission**



With Christ no longer physically present, the disciples are commissioned to become His witnesses “to the ends of the earth.” The Church is born not just at Pentecost, but in the commission of the Ascended Lord.

- **He ascended, but He did not abandon**

Christ promised: *“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* His Ascension changes the mode of His presence—from the physical to the sacramental, from external to internal—especially through the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit.

- **The Ascension prepares the way for the Holy Spirit**

Jesus says, *“It is to your advantage that I go away... if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you”* (John 16:7). The Ascension opens the way for Pentecost and the indwelling of the Spirit.

- **Heaven is not a place “up there”—it is the fullness of communion with God**

The image of Christ ascending “into the heavens” reminds us that heaven is not merely a location, but the condition of being fully united with the Father. Through Christ, that communion is now open to humanity.

- **The Christian life is lived in a tension between heaven and earth**

We are called to live with our hearts in heaven while still engaging faithfully in the mission of love and service on earth. As St. Paul says, *“Set your minds on things above”* (Col. 3:2).

- **The Ascension is a call to hope and watchfulness**

Just as the disciples were told, *“This same Jesus... will come back”* (Acts 1:11), we live in anticipation of His return—not in fear, but in joyful expectation, carrying out His will until that day.

- **Through the Ascension, Christ becomes the Great High Priest forever**

Having entered the heavenly sanctuary, Christ continually intercedes for us (Hebrews 7:25), offering not animal sacrifices, but His own eternal sacrifice and perfect love.

- **The Ascension affirms the dignity of the human body and person**

Christ did not discard His humanity—He glorified it. In a world that often devalues human life and dignity, the Ascension reminds us that every human person is called to divine communion.

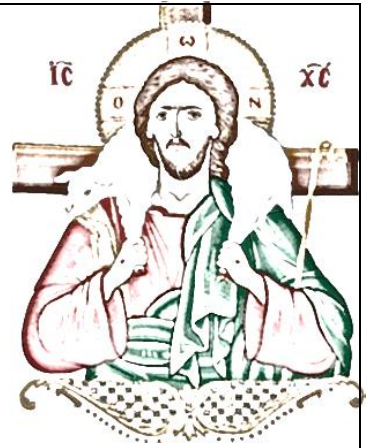
“*Peace to you*”

Luke 24:36

Orthodox Christianity 101

THE EUCHARIST

The Eucharist (Greek *eucharistia*, 'thanksgiving'), or the sacrament of Holy Communion, is 'the sacrament of sacraments', 'the mystery of mysteries'. The Eucharist has a central significance in the life of the Church and of every Christian. It is not merely one of many sacred actions or 'a means of receiving grace': it is the very heart of the Church, her foundation, without which the existence of the Church cannot be imagined.



The sacrament of the Eucharist was instituted by Christ at the Last Supper. The Last Supper of Christ with the disciples was, in its outward ritual, the traditional Jewish Paschal meal when the members of every family in Israel gathered to taste of the sacrificial lamb. This Supper was attended by Christ's disciples: not His relatives in the flesh, but that family which would later grow into the Church. Instead of the lamb, Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice 'like that of a lamb without blemish or spot', 'He was destined before the foundation of the world' for the salvation of people (1 Peter 1:19-20). At the Last Supper Christ transformed the bread and wine into His Body and Blood, communicated the apostles and commanded them to celebrate this sacrament in remembrance of Him. After His death on the Cross and His Resurrection the disciples would gather on the first day of the week (the so called 'day of the sun', or Sunday) for the 'breaking of bread'.

Originally the Eucharist was a meal accompanied by readings from Scripture, a sermon and prayer. It would sometimes continue through the night. Gradually, as the Christian communities grew, the Eucharist was transformed from an evening supper to a divine service.

The most ancient elements that constitute the Eucharistic rite are the reading from Holy Scripture, prayers for all of the people, the kiss of peace, thanksgiving to the Father (to which the people reply 'Amen'), the fraction (breaking of bread), and Communion. In the early Church each community had its own Eucharist, but all of these elements were present in every eucharistic rite. The bishop's prayer was originally improvised, and only later were the eucharistic prayers written down. In the early Church a multitude of eucharistic rites were used: they were called 'Liturgies' (Greek *leitourgia* means 'common action', 'work', 'service').

The eucharistic offering has the sense of a sacrifice in which Christ Himself is 'the Offerer and the Offered, the Receiver and the Received'. Christ is the one true celebrant of the Eucharist: He is invisibly present in the church and acts through the priest. For Orthodox Christians the Eucharist is not merely a symbolic action performed in remembrance of the Mystical Supper; it is rather the Mystical Supper itself, renewed daily by Christ and continuing uninterruptedly in the Church from that Paschal night when Christ reclined at the table with His disciples. 'Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me this day as a partaker', says the believer as he approaches Holy Communion.

The Orthodox Church believes that in the Eucharist the bread and wine become not only a symbol of Christ's presence, but the real Body and Blood of Christ. This belief has been held in the Christian Church from the very beginning. Christ Himself says: 'For My Flesh is food indeed, and My Blood is drink indeed. He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood abides in Me, and I in him' (John 6:55-56).

The union of the believer with Christ in the Eucharist is not symbolic and figurative, but genuine, real and integral. As Christ suffuses the bread and wine with Himself, filling them with His divine presence, so He enters into the human person, filling his flesh and blood with His life-giving presence and divine energy. In the Eucharist we become of the same body with Christ, Who enters us as He entered the womb of the Virgin Mary. Our flesh in the Eucharist receives a leaven of incorruption, it becomes deified, and when it dies and becomes subject to corruption, this leaven becomes the pledge of its future resurrection.

Because of the Eucharist's uniqueness the Church attaches to it a special significance in the cause of the salvation of humanity. Beyond the Eucharist there can be no salvation, no deification, no true life, no resurrection in eternity: 'Unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of man and drink His Blood, you have no life in you; he who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day' (John 6:53-54). Hence the church Fathers advise Christians never to decline the Eucharist and to take Communion as often as possible. 'Endeavour to gather more often for the Eucharist and the glorification of God', says St Ignatius of Antioch. The words from the Lord's prayer 'Give us this day our daily bread' (Matt.6:11) were sometimes interpreted as a call to daily reception of the Eucharist.

The Church reminds us that all those who approach Holy Communion must be ready to encounter Christ. Hence the necessity of proper preparation, which should not be limited to the reading of a certain number of prayers and abstinence from particular types of food. In the first instance readiness for Communion is conditioned by a pure conscience, the absence of enmity towards our neighbours or a grievance against anyone, by peace in our relationships with all people. Obstacles to Communion are particular grave sins committed by a person who should repent of them in confession.

The contrition that comes from a sense of one's own sinfulness is a necessary condition for Communion. This does not, however, prevent the Christian from receiving the Eucharist as a celebration of joy and thanksgiving. By its very nature the Eucharist is a solemn thanksgiving, fundamental to which is praise of God. Herein lies the paradox and mystery of the Eucharist: it has to be approached with both repentance and joy. With repentance from a sense of one's unworthiness, and with joy at the fact that the Lord in the Eucharist cleanses, sanctifies and deifies the human person, renders him worthy in spite of his unworthiness. In the Eucharist not only the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, but also the communicant himself is transformed from an old into a new person; he is freed from the burden of sin and illumined by divine light.



Statement of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA On the Occasion of International Children's Day

June 1, 2025

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

On this International Children's Day, established in 1925 during the World Conference on the Well-being of Children in Geneva and later recognized in 1950 as a global day of advocacy for the youngest members of our human family, we - the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America - offer our prayerful reflections on the sacred duty to love, protect, and guide the children of our world.

International Children's Day emerged in the wake of a fractured world, one still recovering from war, division, and the collapse of families. It was born to protect the most vulnerable - our children - who suffer most silently when society fails. Today, its mission is as vital as ever.

Children are entrusted to us by God. Their eyes reflect hope, their hearts yearn for security, and their futures depend on the love and courage of those around them. Our Savior taught us this with clarity and compassion: *"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven"* (Matthew 19:14).

We grieve for the children of Ukraine, who even now endure the horrors of war - displaced, orphaned, separated from loved ones, or forcibly taken from their homeland. We cry out for those whose lives have been torn apart, and we raise our prayers for those who live as refugees, clinging to hope in the embrace of strangers. These children are not statistics - they are living icons of the suffering Christ.

As a Church, we also lift up, with profound love, the children of the Ukrainian orphanages whom we have spiritually adopted and supported for over twenty-five years. Though the brutal war has kept us physically separated, our connection remains unbroken. Through the continued prayers of our faithful and the generosity of our communities, we support these children with material and financial aid. Special education teachers - sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA - remain with them, offering not only education but moments of comfort, dignity, and human connection amidst the sounds of sirens and scenes of devastation. This is the Church in action: presence in absence, love in hardship, and light in darkness.

We also extend our concern to the children here in the United States - children who face different, yet no less real, dangers. They grow up in a culture increasingly detached from spiritual truth, moral clarity, and the sanctity of life. Digital overload, broken homes, bullying, identity confusion, and the erosion of decency have become daily threats. Many are spiritually orphaned in a world that no longer teaches them to know God, to love their neighbor, or to cherish themselves as His creation.

We, the Body of Christ, must be vigilant. We must protect their innocence, defend their dignity, and guide them with the same love that Christ shows each of us. We must provide places of safety - homes, churches, and communities - where children feel loved, understood, and formed in truth. Their well-being is not only our calling - it is our responsibility.

To parents, educators, clergy, and caretakers - your work is sacred. To all faithful - your prayers matter. To our children - your lives are precious, and your future is worth every sacrifice.

Let us recommit ourselves to the holy task of raising children who will walk in truth and grace, who will stand against evil, and who will carry the light of Christ into a world in desperate need.

May the Lord, Who came into the world as a Child, bless and protect all children - those in war zones and those in our neighborhoods, those in orphanages and those within our parishes. And may we, as His Church, never cease to be a refuge of love, hope, and mercy for them.

With pastoral blessing and unwavering love in Christ,

+Antony,

Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

+Daniel,

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA



The Ascension of Jesus

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven.
Luke 24:51 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



X	W	V	D	J	Q	R	I	B	S	O	A	E	U	C	P	K	N	H	L	G	M	Y	Z	F	T
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 25-14-20-25-8-20-20-13-4 _____
- 11-16-13-18-13-4 _____
- 22-8-18-4-10 _____
- 10-15-7-8-16-26-14-7-13 _____
- 7-8-10-13 _____
- 7-13-16-13-18-26 _____
- 9-20-13-10-10-8-18-21 _____
- 26-12-17-13-18 _____
- 19-13-12-3-13-18 _____
- 2-11-7-10-19-8-16-13-4 _____

SCRIPTURE	RISE	REPENT	HEAVEN	BLESSING
MINDS	TAKEN	OPENED	WORSHIPED	FULFILLED



Arlene Hawryluk Obituary

GIRARD - Arlene R. Hawryluk, 74, passed away unexpectedly, Wednesday evening, May 28, 2025, at St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital, with her family by her side.

Arlene was born Oct. 3, 1950, in Youngstown, a daughter of the late Nick and Clara Root Damiano, and was a lifelong area resident. She was raised in Girard and was a proud graduate of Girard High School.

A devoted wife and mother, Arlene dedicated her life to her family. She was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Youngstown

and was active in many church activities and organizations, including the St. Mary's Sisterhood, the parish bingo project and church catering.

Arlene enjoyed bowling and was proud to have bowled a perfect 300 game during her league season in 1985-1986. She also enjoyed spending time with her neighborhood card club and valued the friendships she built there over the years.

Arlene leaves to forever cherish her memory her daughter, Lisa Hawryluk of Greeneville Tenn; her granddaughter, Ashlea Hawryluk of Warren; her sister-in-law, Emily Williams of Akron; and several nieces and nephews, extended family members and many dear friends.

Her husband of 43 years, Steve "Frenchy" Hawryluk, whom she married August 28, 1971, died May 27, 2015. Arlene was also preceded in death by her son, Michael Hawryluk; her sister, Alice Kincaid and her sister-in-law, Janine Douglas.

• **CALLING HOURS:** Sunday, June 1, 2025, 3pm to 5pm with a **Panahyda (Memorial Service)** at 4:30 pm at Kinnick Funeral Home 477 N Meridian Rd, Youngstown, OH 44509.

• **FUNERAL SERVICE:** Monday, June 2, 2025, at 11am at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church at 1025 N. Belle Vista Ave. Youngstown, OH 44509. Interment will follow at the parish cemetery, where Arlene will be laid to rest beside her husband.

Arlene's family suggests memorial contributions be made to Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Arlene's memory.

