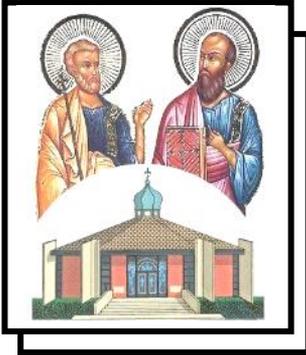


# The Word of Sts. Peter & Paul

June 10, 2018



Saints Peter & Paul UOC

8410 West 131st St.

Palos Park, IL 60464

V. Rev. Vasyl Sendeha — Rector

[www.sspeterandpauluoc.net](http://www.sspeterandpauluoc.net)

[Rev.vasyl@yahoo.com](mailto:Rev.vasyl@yahoo.com)

708-361-5165

## *The Spiritual Path of an Atheist, and Where it Leads*

### **Parish Council**

#### **President**

*John Beck*

### **Sisterhood of St.**

#### **Anne**

*Andrea Manson*

### **Church School**

#### **Director**

*Pat Wolsko*

### **Church Choir**

#### **Director**

*George Cepynsky*

### **Sr. UOL President**

*Harry Oryhon*

### **Ways & Means**

#### **Committee**

*Rich Ganske*

### **Seraphim Group**

#### **President**

*Debbie Pierog*

### **50/50 Club**

#### **President**

*Michael Gbur*

The Rev. Gregory Joshua Edwards didn't always believe in God.

Growing up in Pennsylvania, Edwards avoided his family's Episcopal beliefs and focused on academics. Valedictorian of his 1996 high school graduating class, he served as student body president and editor of the yearbook. He referred to himself as an atheist. Then, as a student at Brown University, he began to question the meaning of life. Edwards' spiritual inquiries led him to the Greek Orthodox Church, into which he was received in April 2003.

After graduating with a degree in religious studies from Brown in 2003, Edwards worked as a teaching assistant and master's candidate in the religion department at Florida State University. He volunteered with AmeriCorps, managing soup kitchens and building houses for people in need. In 2006, he enrolled as a doctoral student in the School of Theology at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

On Feb. 22, 2009, he was ordained in the holy priesthood of the Orthodox Church. Edwards, 38, recently accepted a position at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New Port Richey. The church, at 9426 Little Road, welcomed him as its father in October. I asked Edwards about his path to faith, what it means to serve others and his new position in Pasco County.

### **What appealed to you about the Orthodox faith?**

When I was in college, I was an atheist, studying Nietzsche, Sartre, etc. At a certain point, I came face to face with a real existential crisis. Why was I here? What was the purpose of my life?

Was it really only to get good grades so that I can get a good job, so that I can buy a big house, fancy car? I came to realize that there was a God, but I didn't know who he was. I wanted a relationship with him because I understood that he was life. But how can you have a relationship with someone you don't know? So I changed my major in college and began studying the history of religions.

I went back to the Protestant church I grew up in. But the Christianity that was being presented to me in the U.S. didn't ring true. Disillusioned, I began exploring Buddhism, and I was attracted by its mystical prayer and contemplation. But something was missing there, too. I had never even heard of Orthodox Christianity until it was mentioned by a professor in a course about the history of Christianity. She said that the same worship service that Christians were using in the 5th century was still being used today in the Orthodox Church. I had to know where I could find this. The more I read about the history of Christianity, the more I was convinced that the Orthodox Church had preserved the Christian inheritance in a way that western Christianity had not. I was especially moved by its unchanging doctrine and its focus on mystical prayer.

### **Why did you decide to pursue a career within the church?**

Once I discovered where the spring for the water of life was, I wanted nothing else but to be near it at all times. Everything else, my promising worldly career, suddenly paled in comparison. I felt I could do nothing else.

## Liturgical Schedule

Today

### 2nd Sunday after Pentecost. All Saints of Kievan-Russ Ukraine. Tone one.

Apostles' (Peter & Paul) Fast. Fish Allowed.  
All saints of Ukraine.

St. Eutychius, bishop of Melitene (1st c.).

Martyrs Heliconis and Dapni of Thessalonica (244). Hieromartyr Helladius, bishop in the

East (6th-7th c.). "Nikeysky" (304),

"Chukhlomsky" (Galich) (1350), "Orlovsky",

"Antiochsky" and "Tenderness" Icons of the

Mother of God. New Hieromartyr Zachariah of Prusa (1802) (Greek). Venerable Sophronius, monk, of Bulgaria (1510) (Bulgaria).

St. Germanus, bishop of Paris (576) (Gaul).

Andrew the fool-for-Christ of Constantinople



Romans 2:10-16 (Epistle)

Matthew 4:18-23 (Gospel)

Reader of the Hours - Sandra Hladky

Reader of the Eng. Epist.– Sandra Hladky

Saturday, June 16

No Vespers

Sunday  
June 17

### 3rd Sunday after Pentecost. Tone two.

Apostles' (Peter & Paul) Fast. St. Metrophanes, first patriarch of Constantinople (325). Archbishop Basil of Chernigov (1918). Joanikije Lipovac, Metropolitan of Montenegro (1945) (Serbia)

Martyrs Frontasius, Severinus, Severian, and Silanus of Gaul (1st c.). Martyr Concordius of Spoleto (175). Venerable Zosimas of Cilicia, bishop of New Babylon (Egypt) (6th c.). Hieromartyr Ioannicus, metropolitan of Montenegro and Littoral (1945). Sts. Mary and Martha, sisters of St. Lazarus (1st c.). St. Petroc of Cornwall (594) (Celtic & British).



Romans 5:1-10

Matthew 6:22-33

Reader of the Hours - Julius Machnikowski

Reader of the Eng. Epist.– Julius Machnikowski

Reader of the Ukr. Epist.– Olga Piskoun

What is most rewarding to you about serving others?

We Christians believe that Christ came

“not to be served, but to serve,” Mark 10:45.

He who is God assumed the form of a humble servant. For me then, serving others is an imitation of Christ. I try to do it, however, not out of some religious obligation, but out of the radical freedom that God has given me by making me in his image and likeness, just as God himself became man of his own free will.

I’m not Greek, but I learned many things in my 10 years in Greece, one of which was the concept of *philotimo*, which actually can’t be translated into English. It means something like “freely responding with sincere goodness to the smallest good done by another.”

When I look at how much God has done for me, I am moved by this sense of *philotimo* to serve Him and others.

What do you hope to offer your new church home going forward?

**What do you like most about the church?**

I was fortunate to spend 10 years in Greece, soaking up the world view of the country where Christianity first blossomed in Europe, the land of Thessalonica, Corinth, the land which has preserved and maintained Christianity at great cost for 2000 years. I hope to be able to bring some of this experience to the U.S. and offer a translation to contemporary American culture. My goal is simply to try to bring authentic Orthodox Christianity and most important to try to embody it in my own person and life.

The thing I like most about the parish of St. George is its warm sense of community, its friendliness and openness to outsiders, including me, a former Protestant raised in Pennsylvania.

*By Rev. Gregory Joshua Edwards Journey to Orthodoxy*

### ***Parish Feast Day — Festival 2018***

Sunday July 15, 2018

*Come and participate: Festal Divine Liturgy 9:30am followed by Festival. Sign up to volunteer at the Festival. Different Positions available. Sign up Sheets to work at the Festival are placed in the Hall by the main doors. Sign up today!*

## Announcements

### Parish Council

Parish Council meeting is every third Sunday of the Month.

Next meeting is Sunday June 24, 2018 after the Coffee Hour.

*Representatives from parish organizations must be present.*

*Guests are welcome.*



### Sisterhood of St. Anne

Thank you very much to all of our volunteers for helping us out last week,

**Next Pierogy working days are:**

Monday June 25 - 8:00am Make SK & Pot balls

Tuesday June 26 - 8:00am Make SK Pierogies

Wednesday June 27 - 8:00am—Noon Make Pot pierogies

Thursday, June 28— Sale Noon — 4:00pm Frozen only

Come and help us out. Even if it is only for an hour or two your help would be greatly appreciated.

### Church School Summer Camp

This Year's Church School Camp is expending! The dates are August 9 & 10, 2018

Please look for the announcements and bring your children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Prayers, fun activities, learning games, outings, guest performances and more. Hours are: from 9:00am—3:30 pm. If needed, the arrangements can be made for children to be drop off earlier or picked up later.

*Adult chaperon help is welcomed!*



### Seraphim Group



Our group meets usually every second Tuesday of the Month.

***Next meeting is This Tuesday June 12, 2018*** We will meet at Noon at the Church Hall . Join us for

great get together, outings and more each month. Fun time in the circle of fellow parishioners. Delicious food, nice atmosphere and great company. Great opportunity to socialize, make friends.

*For more information see Mrs. Debbie Pierog*

## *Seven Day Vigil Candles*

For the health of my mother Maria Savoy by John Policzszuk

For the health of my parents Pavlo & Polina in Ukraine by Halyna Kashpar

For the health and safe trip and return back home by Kashpar Family

For the health of my mother Anne Mulholland on her Birthday by Pat Beck

For the health of Ana, Viorel, Denis, Mihail, Dumitru, Ana, Vasile, Oxana, Ciprian, Andreea, Victor, Nadiana, Cristina, Waleriu, Elena, Nicolae, Sergiu, Victor, Victoria, Cheorghe, Ira, Mihail, Ana, Efim by Valeriu

For the health of Maria Omelian by Fr. Vasyl

For the health of Maria Iordanov by PM Olenka



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In memory of Evhenia, Boris, Julia, Jaroslav & Maria



## *Church Festival Basket Raffle*

Basket Raffle has been very successful for 7 years in a row. The success of this raffle depends on the support of our parishioners and friends. If you would like to donate ready gift baskets, please see picnic committee.



*Some of the ideas for baskets:*

Kids basket, lottery basket, bakers basket, dog/cat treats basket, tea/coffee basket

**Any kind of basket arrangements. 708-361-5165**

New ideas will be greatly appreciated!

### **Don't know what to get?**

Get some scratch of lottery tickets, even if it is only one or two!

They will be arranged into a basket.



## ***Church Temple Main Chandelier***

Over the past year, Our Church Temple has been beautified and remodeled. Many necessary updates have been done, thanks to the parishioners kindness and generosity.



We are working on replacing Main Chandelier at the Church Temple. Current one is too small for our temple as well as in very poor condition. There was a substantial donation made of \$5000.00 towards this project. We hope we would be able to raise enough funds to purchase a new one and install it in the near future.

Every little bit helps.

Thank you for your support.

## ***Festival Check List***

1. Save July 15th on your calendar
2. Attend the Festival on July 15th
3. Invite your families
4. Invite your neighbors and friends
5. Volunteer your time
6. BUY A RAFFLE TICKET TODAY!
7. Plan on helping Saturday, July 14th
8. Start saving your money now
9. Arrive early and stay late
10. SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH!!

## ***Church Humor***

### *Prayer*

God answers Knee-Mail.

### *The Boss*

Under the same management for over 2000 years.

### *Come As You Are*

You are not too bad to come in and you are not too good to stay out.

### *Insomnia Cure*

If you can't sleep, try counting your blessings.

## Coffee Hour Schedule

*We kindly remind to provide and set aside snacks/food/ drinks for our children who attend Sunday School.*



**Today** — Lori Zvonek and Suzanne Ciapinski  
June 17-- “Father’s Day” – Women of parish supply treats  
June 24 -- *Olga Piskoun thank you for volunteering*  
July 1 -- Gayle Woloschak & Elias Gordon Family (Lenten)  
July 8 -- *open volunteer/s needed*  
July 15 -- ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC  
July 22 -- *open volunteer/s needed*  
July 29 -- PANCAKE FLIP – Sr. UOL  
*If you would like to volunteer for the Coffee Hour or need to change your scheduled date, please see Dr. Harry Oryhon call 708-301-5565 or email harrymolars@aol.com*

## Save the Date. Come and participate

### ***Parish Feast Day and Festival -Sunday July 15, 2018***

Join us in prayer, work and celebration.

Sign up Sheets to work at the Festival is placed in the Hall by the coffee table. Sign up today!

Volunteer to set up or to work at the Festival.

Volunteer to clean up after the Festival.

Support your parish!!!

Purchase Cash Raffle tickets today!

You can win: First Prize -\$5000.00; Second Prize - \$1000.00; Third Price - \$500.00. Only 200 tickets will be sold! One ticket -\$100.00 Don’t miss out on the great opportunity! You can share the cost of the ticket with your friends, coworkers. Purchasing the tickets, you support our parish! All the proceeds benefit our parish. For more info see Dr. Harry Oryhon.

