

The Word of Sts. Peter & Paul



June 23, 2019

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Church growth

**Parish Council
President**
Sandra Hladky

**Sisterhood of St.
Anne**
Andrea Manson

**Church School
Director**
Pat Wolsko

**Ukrainian
Saturday School
Director**
PM Olenka

**Church Choir
Director**
George Cepynsky

**Seraphim Group
President**
Debbie Pierog

**50/50 Club
President**
Michael Gbur

Church Growth Orthodox Style

by Kevin Allen

Church growth has become a buzzword in the Protestant and Evangelical Christian world.

Continued from the previous bulletin.

RELATED SONGS OF FREEDOM:

Part Two

While there isn't a "text book" for Orthodox "church growth" (nor should there be!), I submit there are some common factors that exist in "growth-oriented" parishes within our Archdiocese, factors that make the "soil" right for new growth. The following are some but certainly not all of them.

Be interested in outreach & growth

Everything begins with an attitude, an interest, a desire, with prayer. If your parish is satisfied with the status quo, that is probably what you will get. If nothing else, pray for God's direction for your parish. Ask God to show you how to be open to inquirers and converts. It's not about programs, advertising or special events. It's about inviting people to church and knowing what to do with them

when they come! It's about keeping them once they have visited.

It helps to be located near Evangelical colleges, universities or seminaries

Many of the new wave of converts coming into our parishes are from Evangelical colleges and seminaries. I recently spoke with one graduate from a local Evangelical college (of which we have several) and asked him what drew him to the Eastern Orthodox faith. He said he studied the early church fathers — east and west — and early church history in college and discovered a different church and faith from what he had known in Evangelicalism. He said he wanted to be part of that faith himself.

Be a welcoming community

Consider having “greeters” at the door. Make sure visitors and inquirers know they are welcome! Let them know they do not have to “do” anything (kiss icons; venerate the cross; stand during services) if they don't feel comfortable. Encourage them to ask questions after services about anything they don't understand. Consider having several friendly and outgoing parishioners assigned to meet and talk to visitors if you don't have greeters. I hate to say this, but I have been in too many Orthodox parishes where — after Liturgy — no one has come forward to greet me, ask me where I'm from, or smile at me. Coffee klatches of parishioners and family often form and “newbies” stand on the sidelines, like awkward teenagers at a high school dance. If a newcomer is standing around awkwardly, go up and introduce yourself and bring him or her to your table. It's especially important for youth to greet and welcome other youth. Invite him or her to “hang” with your friends and talk. Encourage the entire parish to “be on the lookout” for newcomers and to welcome them sincerely. The key word is sincerely. People can see a fake a mile away! At our parish we have had several people say,

“Without so-and-so taking me by the hand when I first came, I would never have come back.”

Have service texts available

RELATED A Brief Description Of My Journey To Orthodoxy
Newcomers don't know our services. Perhaps they even have

Liturgical Schedule

Today

1st Sunday after Pentecost. All Saints. Tone eight. Eve of Apostles' (Peter & Paul) Fast. Hieromartyr Timothy, bishop of Prusa (362). Venerable Silvanus of the Far Caves in Kiev (14th c.). Martyr Alexander and Virgin-martyr Antonina at Constantinople (313). Venerable Theophanes, monk, of Antioch (363). Hieromartyr Metrophanes, the first Chinese priest, and the Chinese New Martyrs of the Boxer Uprising, at Peking and other places in 1900. Martyr Neaniscus the Wise of Alexandria (Greek). St. Canides, monk, of Cappadocia (460) (Greek).



Hebrews 11:33-12:2
Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

Reader of the Hours - Sandra Hladky
Reader of the Eng. Epist.— Sandra Hladky
Reader of the Ukr. Epist.— PM Olenka

June 29
Saturday

Vespers at 6:00pm

Sunday
June 30

**2nd Sunday after Pentecost.
All Saints of Ukraine.**

Apostles' (Peter & Paul) Fast. Fish Allowed All venerable and holy Fathers of the Holy Mount Athos (movable holiday on the 2nd Sunday of Pentecost). Martyrs Manuel, Sabel, and Ismael of Persia (362). Hieromartyr Philonides, bishop of Kurion in Cyprus (306). Venerables Joseph and Pior, disciples of St. Anthony the Great (4th c.). Uncovering of the relics (1562) of the Alfanov Brothers of Novgorod (1389): Saints Nicetas, Cyril, Nicephorus, Clement, and Isaac of Novgorod, founders of the Sikolnitzki Monastery. Venerable Ananias the Iconographer of Novgorod (1581).



Romans 2:10-16 (Epistle)
Matthew 4:18-23 (Gospel)

Reader of the Hours — Karen Jakubczak
Reader of the Eng. Epist.— Karen Jakubczak
Reader of the Ukr. Epist.— Natalie Cepynsky

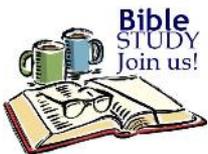
questions about what we believe and what our faith is. They need to know what we are praying, what we are chanting. Newcomers — especially from Protestant traditions where the written text is so emphasized — like to follow the services with service books; it makes them feel “connected” and “safe.” Keep these books in a visible place when they enter, or hand one to someone who looks confused by what is going on. If you do not have printed, up-to-date service books, consider making them or ordering them.

Understand the challenges converts face

I can't overemphasize the transition required of people visiting us, or journeying towards us from other Christian faith traditions. You may find what I am about to say surprising, but many of our catechumens are actively discouraged by their Christian friends and family members from becoming Eastern Orthodox. Misunderstanding, sectarianism and outright heresy come into play when some inquirers express an interest in the Orthodox faith. These inquirers need to have people in our parishes who can work through the issues and explain to them why, for example, we venerate the Theotokos (and what we mean when we ask her to “save us”!), why we kiss the hand of the priest, why we ask for the intercessions of the Saints. We can't rely on our over-worked priests and deacons exclusively to address all these questions when they come up. Ask newcomers, “Do you have any questions about what we do?” Or you can say, “So you made it through your first Liturgy? Are your feet tired (from standing)? Have any questions?” Recommend good Orthodox books to read. Have pamphlets (Conciliar Press) available for newcomers that address these common problems.

To be continued in the next bulletin

Bible & Faith Study Group



Next Bible Study group meeting is Wednesday July 17 at 6:30 pm. *If you are interested in joining the study, please see Fr. Vasyl*

Festival Committee

The Festival Committee is working hard preparing for Our Annual Festival on July 14, 2019. There is a great need in volunteers to fill the working spots at the Festival. Next meeting is June 30, 2019



110 Anniversary Celebration

Anniversary

The 110 Anniversary Committee has been formed and started working on preparation for the celebrations . Next meeting is Sunday June 30, 2019

Sisterhood of St. Anne



We are back in the kitchen.
Preparign for the Festival.
Volunteers needed every day
Sunday June 23 Make Cheese balls
Monday June 24 (possible) at Noon make cheese pierogies
Tuesday June 25 at 8:00am make Pot & SK balls
Wednesday June 26 8:00am make SK & Pot pierogies
Thursday June 27 Sale from noon- 4:00pm

Church School Summer Camp

This Year's Church School Camp is ex-
pending! We are expecting more then usual
number of kids. The tentative dates are
August 1 & 2, 2019

Please look for the announcements and reg-
ister 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 of earlier or picked up later.

Adult chaperon help is welcomed!

*For more information, please see Pat Wolsko or PM Olenka
Registration papers will be at the entrance of the Church*



Seven Day Vigil Candles

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



For the health of Halyna & Volodimer by Kashpar
family

For the health and well being of the Huber Family by John
Gbur

For the safe trip of Halyna Kashpar to Ukraine by Kashpar
Family

For the health of my husband Alexander and son Andrei on
Father's Day by Ludmila Piskoun

Janet Milton in blessed memory of Walter Podlecki. Memory
Eternal.

In memory of Vasyl, Mykola & Howard by Olga
Piskoun



In memory of our Fathers Nikolai and Mark on father's day by
Alex and Ludmila Piskoun

Parish Feast Day Festival Sunday July 14, 2019

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

Church Festival Basket Raffle

Basket Raffle has been very successful for

8 years in a row. The success of this raffle depends on the sup-
port of our parishioners and friends. If you would like to donate
ready gift baskets, please see PM Olenka.

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!

Single items will be arranged into baskets



Festival Check List:

1. Save July 14th on your calendar
2. Attend the Festival on July 14th
3. Invite your families
4. Invite your neighbors and friends
5. Volunteer your time. (You can sign up today!)
6. Buy a raffle ticket today
7. Plan on helping Saturday, July 13th to set up
8. Start saving your money now
9. Arrive early and stay late
10. SUPPORT YOUR PARISH CHURCH!!

***Constitution Committee***

The parish council has decided to form a Constitution Committee of about 5-6 parishioners (council members and non-council members) to be formed to review, study and bring recommended changes, updates, etc...to our parish constitution. Once reviewed by the council, the council would then bring the changes to the parish at next year's annual meeting for approval.

For more info or to volunteer please see Brian Ciapinski.

Festival Cash Raffle***Our Goal 200 Tickets***

This year, we have decided to have an early presale of the Big Cash Raffle tickets of Festival 2019.



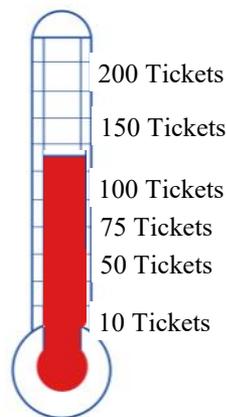
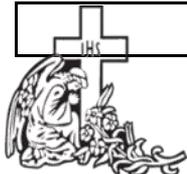
If you would like to purchase the tickets, please see John Grzymiski.

Cost of 1 ticket is \$100.00.

Only 200 tickets are offered.

You can split the cost with family, friends, coworkers, fellow parishioners. You can be on multiple tickets. So far **143 tickets** were committed to be bought. Advanced payment for tickets would be appreciated.

Help us make it a success and have all 200 tickets sold!

***June Memorial Service***

In memory of Glen Podlecki requested by Carol Redmerski

Coffee Hour Schedule



Today —	Cucci & Fischer Families
06/30/2019	Olena & Yuriy Korolyk
07/07/2019	<i>open - volunteers needed</i>
07/14/2019	Sts. Peter & Paul Feast Day Festival
07/21/2019	Ciapinski family
07/28/2019	PANCAKE FLIP
08/04/2019	Olga & Sergie Bureiko
08/11/2019	Supilowski Family

Please remember the dates you are signed up to do the coffee hour
If you would like to volunteer for the Coffee Hour or need to change your scheduled date, please see Olga Piskoun call 708-361-5165 or email opiskoun@yahoo.com

Save the Date

Our Parish is going to celebrate 110 years of service to God and His people.

Save the date and come to celebrate. October 5 & 6, 2019

Church Humor

Three ministers were sitting in a retirement home discussing religion; a Methodist, a Presbyterian and an Orthodox.

They started talking about religious groups other than their own that they admired the most.

The Presbyterian Minister said, "I've always admired the Catholics, with their formality, the architecture, the Latin and the grandeur of Mass. I think if I had not been a Presbyterian, I might have been a Catholic."

The Methodist Minister chimed in and said, "I've always admired the Amish, with their simple approach to life, their closeness to God and the land. If I hadn't been a Methodist, I think I would have liked to have been Amish."

The two then turned to their Orthodox Brother who had suddenly become very quiet. One of them asked, "Well Brother, if you hadn't been an Orthodox, what would you have been?"
His one word reply, "Ashamed."