

# The Word of Sts. Peter & Paul



February 16, 2025

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

Pray For Ukraine

Super-Bowl Sunday 2025

**Parish Council  
 President**

George Cepynsky

**Sisterhood of St. Anne**

Athena Gordon

**Church School**

**Director**

Patricia Wolsko

**Ukrainian**

**Saturday School**

**Director**

PM Olenka

**Church Choir**

**Director**

George Cepynsky

**Seraphim Group**

**President**

Debbie Pierog

**50/50 Club**

**President**

Ioan Bryndzia

Vitalii Kulyk

**Jr. UOL President**

David Sendeha

**Sr. UOL President**

Nataliia Bryndzia



As the sun with its golden rays was kissing the shining dome of our church temple of Sts. Peter and Paul, anticipation filled the air as one after the other soup chefs were bringing their prized soup creations into the church hall kitchen. This Sunday was special; it marked the day of our much-anticipated "Soup-er Bowl Sunday" event. Our parish had joined hands once again to raise funds for the soup kitchen in Kiev, providing not just nourishment for our parishioners and guests, but also hope to those affected by the ongoing turmoil in Ukraine. As the Liturgy was concluding, the aroma of simmering vegetables, spices,

and hearty broths traveled through the air, drawing families and friends together in the celebration of warmth and parish community. Our talented chefs, each with their own secret recipes, presented 23 soups for the enjoyment of many. Each pot steaming with flavor told a story of resilience, culture, and compassion.

There was a huge variety of soups, from aromatic red borscht, its vibrant red hue a reminder of the beetroot-rich lands of Ukraine; a creamy mushroom soup, rich with local wild mushrooms; and a spicy Tom Yum that warmed both body and soul to Ukrainian green borsch made with green sorrel and chicken reminded many of their childhood in Ukraine and many others.

There was a suggested donation to participate at the event, but many gave above and beyond, overwhelmed by the sense of purpose behind the flavors. Children giggled as they slurped up noodles from a savory chicken soup, while their parents chatted with parish family friends, sharing laughter and stories, fostering connections that transcended the issues of the day. For many, this was more than just an event; it felt like a family reunion, a heartfelt gesture reaching out to others halfway across the world. As guests savored their soups, stories began to emerge about the soup kitchens in Ukraine as well as how the civilian population of Ukraine is helping soldiers on the front lines with food, clothing, and medical supplies.

Our parish has become more than a place to worship and to enjoy a good meal afterward; it has become a haven where families find safety, a sense of community amid chaos, and the loving embrace of true Christians of the Orthodox Faith. Each dollar raised that day would provide a day's worth of meals for those in need, a small beacon of light in dark times.

As the event wrapped up, and the last bowls were enjoyed, community members began to clean up, but not before taking a moment to reflect on the day's impact. The laughter, the food, the warmth — it was a reminder that even amid hardship, we could come together, share our blessings, and uplift others. As the sun was getting ready to over the towering trees of forest preserves, people slowly made their way home, clutching their empty soup pots as tokens of a day well spent. The funds raised far exceeded expectations, and everyone left with a sense of fulfillment, knowing they had helped contribute to something bigger than themselves. The soup kitchen in Kiev would thrive a little longer, fueled by the compassion of strangers united by a

single meal. It was a day of expression of hope, resilience, and a heartfelt reminder that together, we could create change, one bowl of soup at a time.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our soup chefs for their incredible support in sharing their delicious soups for our fundraiser. Thank you to all of those who provided utensils, paper supplies, snacks and desserts for this event. Thank you to all of those who stayed and cleaned up. Your generosity not only enriched our event but also played a crucial role in helping people in Ukraine. We truly appreciate your kindness and dedication to making a difference in the lives of those in need. Thank you for being a vital part of this initiative! Let us remember that we are all interconnected, and even the smallest act of kindness can create ripples of hope far beyond our reach.

*In Christ, Fr. Vasyl*



## Liturgical Schedule



### **Sunday**

**February 16**

8:45am Matins

9:30am Hours

**10:00 am**

**Divine Liturgy**

### **Sunday of Prodigal Son. Tone 1**

Martyrs Pamphilus presbyter, Valens deacon, Paul, Seleucus, Porphyrius, Julian, Theodulus, Elias, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Samuel, and Daniel, at Caesarea in Palestine (307-309). Matins (1): Mt. 28:16-20, 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Lk. 15:11-32;

### **Saturday**

**February 22**

Vespers at 5:00pm

### **Sunday**

**February 23**

8:15am Matins

9:00am Hours

**9:30am Divine  
Liturgy**

### **Meatfare Sunday, of the Last Judgment. Tone 2**

Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna (167). Sts. John, Antioch, Antoninus, Moses, Zebinas, Polychronius, Moses, and Damian, ascetics of the Syrian desert (5th c.). St. Alexander, founder of the order of the Unsleeping Ones (430). Matins (2): Mr. 16:1-8; 1 Cor. 8:8-9:2, Mt. 25:31-46;



Recaps of Sunday February 9, 2025  
*Primary and Intermediate classes*

### **Who Was Saint Valentine & Why Do We Celebrate a Day Named for Him?**

That was the question posed to the students in Miss Faith's & Miss Karen's combined classes. St. Valentine was a Roman priest and doctor who lived in Italy in the 3rd century AD. Centuries later his story inspired the creation of the secular holiday of St. Valentine's Day. He was persecuted for his Christian beliefs, imprisoned and sentenced to die for performing weddings during a time when new marriages were outlawed. While in jail he befriended and cured the blindness of his jailer's daughter. Before he was executed, he sent a letter to the child and signed it "*from your Valentine.*" It wasn't until the Middle Ages, that February 14th was the date set aside by Pope Gelasius to honor his memory. *Sooo....*Is St. Valentine a Roman Catholic or Orthodox Saint? Both...for many years both faiths recognized him as a saint. That has not changed for Orthodox Christians. For us St. Valentine's Day is most fully understood as a celebration of romantic love and of God's love. St. Valentine was willing to sacrifice his life to marry young couples through the blessing of God's love. Demonstrating our love for God through our relationships with our families and communities, is a way of life that is at the heart of Orthodoxy. By living a life following Christ, Saint Valentine shared this fundamental truth of Orthodox Christianity with the world, one that is more beautiful and lasts longer than flowers and cards—it is eternal.\*

The lesson also involved a craft befitting of the holiday. The children created thumbprint heart shaped glass magnets to share with loved ones. A special shout-out to Ryan S. for helping with the craft and for Faith's mother, Priscilla, who arrived just in time and jumped in to help with the clean-up. The message of St. Valentine was clearly shown today!

**1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love"**

Miss Faith & Miss Karen

\*Source: [blogs.goarch.org](http://blogs.goarch.org) (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America)

*Mis Karen*

### **Recap of Teen Class - February 9, 2025**

Since most of our students were not in attendance last week, we began our class reviewing Father Vasyly's summarized explanation of the Iconostasis from last Sunday, Feb. 2. Giving the students a copy of Father's summary, I suggested that they visit the church independently at a quiet time to review the Iconostasis and its symbolic parts.

We then reviewed our understanding of the icon of Jesus Christ inside the Cupola known as the Pantocrator. Jesus has the Bible in his left arm/hand. Is it the Old Testament or the New Testament? What do you think? What is Jesus doing with his right hand? Lastly, we returned to our unit of "Beyond the Royal Doors". After a brief review of what this unit is about, I distributed a short individual student assessment regarding the parts of the unit to determine how much students understood of what takes place "Beyond the Royal Doors" during the liturgy.

*In the glory of Jesus Christ, Miss Pat*

## **Announcements**

**Parish Council** usually meets once a month on the second Sunday of the month. Next Council meeting will take place on Sunday February 16, 2025 after the Coffee hour.

Guests are welcome. If you would like to participate at the council meeting, please let any of the officers know.

**Parish Annual Meeting** is Sunday March 9, 2025 after the Coffee Hour. We ask all of the parishioners to put an extra effort to be present at the important meeting.

**All of the officers** of parish organizations are asked to submit an annual report. All of the reports are asked to be submitted preferably electronically by Sunday March 2, 2025

<b><i>Sunday's Second Collection</i></b>
--

Sunday's Second Special Collection is dedicated each month to a different cause:

Month of February to the victims of Californian wild fires.

## Seven Day Vigil Candles



- For the health of Patti Faye by John Batura
- For the health of Pat Ciapinski
- by John & MaryJo Grzymiski
- For the health of Pat & Mike Beck
- by John & MaryJo Grzymiski
- For the health of Larry Pierog by PM Olenka
- For the health of Tina Palasti by Fr. Vasyl
- 
- In memory of Anthony Kaczor by Michael Supilowski
- In memory of Tony Kovco by Michel Supilowski
- In memory of Gaile Meuch by Alvine & Tom Gbur
- In memory of my Dad Pavlo on his 3rd anniversary of passing into eternity. In memory of my mother Polina. Memory Eternal! Heavenly Kingdom! by Halyna Kashpar

## Sisterhood of St. Anne



**Sisterhood monthly meetings are usually every second Sunday of the month, after the Coffee hour. God bless our volunteers!**

***We are always looking for more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, don't be shy. Come for one hour or two, it will make a huge difference.***

### **Updated Schedule:**

February 17 Monday at 8:30am– prep perogies

February 18 Tuesday at 5:30pm- make perogies

February 24 Monday at 8:30am- prep perogies

February 25 Tuesday at 5:30pm - make perogies

March 2 Sunday after Coffee hour — make cheese balls

March 3 Monday at 8:30am- pinch cheese boil cabbage

March 4 Tuesday at 5:30pm-make Holubtsi

February 5 Wednesday at 8:30am - package Holubtsi

***March 6 Thursday sale 11am-2pm***

***March 8 Saturday sale 11am-2pm***

Meatfare Sunday February 23

Cheesefare Sunday March 2

Palm Sunday April 13

First day of Great Lent March 3

Pascha/Resurrection April 20

## Prayer Corner for the Month of February



*We ask all of you to remember in your prayers the following individuals, who are in need of God's healing and grace:*

Larry Pierog, Pat Beck, Mark, Roman, Judy Broud, Joshua Mark, Mary Wisniowski, Mary Pirtle, Nathan, Gail, Allie Branch, Mike Moran, Christopher Flavin, Even, Edward, Bob Lewandowski, Michael Melnyk, Lilia, Andy, Bohdan, Ralph Palm, David, Irine, Zoriana, Lev, Alla Grzymyski, Kathy Grzymyski, Nicole, John & Patti, Barbara Patronik, Barbara & Katie Bruce, Michael Kimak, Chloe McKinney, Yuriy Zmysly, Dorothy Seliga, Halyna & Wolodymer Kashpar, Mykola, Priest Vasyl Dovhan, Tina & Frankie, Alexander, Anatoli & Pamela, Janet, Sam and Natalia.

**Pray for soldiers in Ukraine:** Maksym, Taras, Yaroslav, Pavlo, Slavko, Mikola, Victor, Taras, Yuriy, Stepan, Volodimer, Mykola, Svitlana, medic Stella, Oleg, Yuriy, Dmitro, Bohdan, Roman, Mykola, Kostia, Vitaliy, missing in action Volodimer, Taras, Mykola, wounded Roman, prisoner Taras.

**Pray for Our expecting mother:**

Daria and Myroslava.

*If there is anyone who is in need of prayers, and you want to add them to the prayer corner, please notify Fr. Vasyl  
If you would like me to visit with the Sacraments of the Holy Confession and Eucharist, please call the rectory.  
to set up an appointment. I will gladly visit everyone.*

## Bible Study

Next Bible Study group meeting is  
Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 7:00 pm.  
Via Zoom. We are going to work on Psalms.  
Resources; Orthodox Study Bible.



## Memorial Service



**Monthly memorial February 23**

In memory of all of those who reposed in the Lord in the month of February

## Coffee Hour Schedule



### Sponsored coffee hours

*You can sponsor coffee hour monetarily by donating \$50.00 to cover the cost of one coffee hour.* If you would like to volunteer, please let PM Olenka or Fr. Vasyl know:

February 16 — John Batura & Patti Faye

in memory of Elena Batura

February 23 — Jr & Sr. UOL Meatfare

March 2 — Donna Nevels

March 9 — *Sisterhood of St. Anne — Parish Annual Meeting*

March 16 — *Nina Gregosanc in memory of husband Vince*

March 23 — *open*

### Mark your calendars

**Sunday February 23 — Divine Liturgy at 9:30am**

*Jr & Sr. UOL Meatfare Sunday Luncheon*

**Sunday February 23 at 7:15pm — Moleben/Prayer for Peace in Ukraine.** Bell tolling at 7:59pm (3:59am Ukrainian time — the time of invasion of aggressor Russia on Ukrainian land 3 years ago.

**Sunday April 13 Palm Sunday — Children make Paska Bread**

**Sunday April 20 — Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

Sunday May 4 — Lamb & Chicken Roast at Noon.

### Selfreliance Association



**Безкоштовне вивчення** усіх документів для новоприбулих (Social Security, Work permit, Benefits)

Кожної Середи у Церковній залі з 10:00-17:00. За інформацією просимо звертатись до Пані Матки Оленки Сендега “Асоціація Самопоміч.” або за телефоном (773) 692-1010

### ESL Classes

#### ESL Announcement:

ESL sessions have resumed in the church hall every Thursday at 6:30pm. For more information please see Pat Wolsko.

*Безкоштовні ESL класи* для усіх бажаючих кожного Четверга о 18:30 вечора у Церковній залі. Дотаковою інформацією просимо звертатися до о. Василя або Пані Матки Оленки.