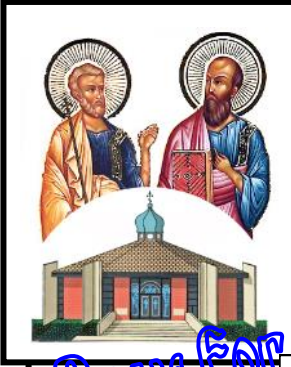


# The Word of Sts. Peter & Paul



May 17, 2026

Saints Peter & Paul UOC  
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Pray for Ukraine

## Sunday Reflection

*Parish Council*

*President*

*Nick Ronsen*

*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*

*Ivan Bryndzia*

*Vitalii Kulyk*

*Jr. UOL President*

*David Sendeha*

*Sr. UOL President*

*Yurii Sendeha*

Though I was blind, now I see!

Christ is Risen!

During His earthly ministry, Jesus met, spoke with, enlightened, and healed a vast number of people, every single day. As St. John says, if each and every one of His encounters were written down, the world could not contain all of the books that it would require. So why did the Holy Spirit guide the Evangelists to record those specific events, those encounters, which we find in the Gospels? What is it about them that make them somehow special? As most of you probably know, it is because those encounters that are recorded for us are *universal*. In 2000 years, while our technology and science are exponentially beyond what it was then, people are still people- as a species, we really haven't changed. And those people about whom we read in Scripture, well, they are us - in some way, they represent all of us, both collectively and personally. And the lessons that their stories impart are just as applicable to us today as they were 2000 years ago. Today's Reading, that of the Blindman, is a classic example of this.

As with all of Holy Scripture, there are many lessons for us in each Reading - what I'd like for us to consider today is the *cost of discipleship*, and the example of how best to deal with that cost. As you all realize, being a disciple of Christ, being a Christian, as we are, is no easy task. And one of the most difficult things required of us, as Christians, is obedience. I think that many adults fall into the trap of thinking that obedience is something with which only children must learn to live, but in reality, all of us must be obedient, each and every day, to any number of laws, codes, standards, requirements, and policies. And, perhaps due to our Fallen Natures, none of it is easy - obedience does not come "naturally" to us. The Blindman about whom today's Reading focuses was not healed instantly- he had to go stumbling off to find the Pool of Siloam and wash in it before he would be healed. This was no great exhibition of unparalleled faith- without any reason to believe that he would be healed, it was simple, mundane *obedience*.

And when it comes to our Faith, we, too, are expected to be obedient, not only to the great Commandments, but also to the small, mundane things- praying every day, fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays, coming to church for Vespers and Liturgy. But, even if it was a rather mundane task that our Lord commanded in today's Reading, still, travelling across the crowded city was no easy assignment for a blind man. Likewise, for us, even something as mundane as fasting on a Wednesday or Friday can at times prove to be difficult, and it usually doesn't feel like some important act of faith. But what it is, actually, is a small enactment of obedience, a quantum of faith - taken by itself, it does not amount to much. But taken week after week, month after month, year after year, it grows into a life of faith that we offer to Christ, our Savior.

Of course, as a disciple of Christ, we must accept the fact that this obedience may sometimes make us appear foolish to the rest of the world, like stumbling blindly around town with mud and spit on your face. The Blindman's lesson for us, brothers and sisters, is that we should never allow our fear of other people's judgment of us, because of our obedience to Christ and His Church, to become a cause of our own stumbling.

Because we know what happened to the Blindman, after he demonstrated his obedience, his willingness to appear the fool rather than disobey Christ - he was healed, and *nothing was ever*

*the same again.* As many times as he was questioned about it by the Jewish authorities, interrogated, threatened, thrown under the bus by his own parents, expelled and cast away, it didn't matter, none of that mattered - "One thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." The Blindman couldn't have made it any clearer. *Though I was blind, now I see.* Nothing that the Pharisees could say or do to him could change that fact. And at this particular point in the man's life, nothing that they could say or do mattered much to him at all. *Though I was blind, now I see,* and all else pales in comparison.



## Liturgical Schedule



<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>May 17</b> 8:15am Matins 9:00am Hours <b>9:30am</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b></p>	<p><b>Sixth Sunday of Pascha. Tone 5</b> The Blind Man. Apostle Andronicus of the Seventy and his fellow laborer Junia (1st c.). Martyrs Solochon, Pamphamer, and Pamphalon at Chalcedon (298). St. Stephen, archbishop of Constantinople (893). Matins (8): Jn. 20:11-18; Acts 16:16-34; Jn. 9:1-38</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>May 21</b> <b>9:00am</b></p>	<p>Feast of Ascension of Jesus Christ Divine Liturgy at 9:00am</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> <b>May 23</b> <b>6:00pm</b></p>	<p>Vespers</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>May 24</b> 8:15am Matins 9:00am Hours <b>9:30am</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b></p>	<p><b>Seventh Sunday of Pascha. Tone 6</b> After-feast of the Ascension. Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council. Ven. Symeon Stylites (the Younger) of the Wonderful Mountain (596). Martyrs Meletius Stratelates, Stephen, John, and 1,218 soldiers with women and children suffered in Galatia (218). Matins (10): Jn. 21:1-14 Acts 20:16-18, 28-36; Jn. 17:1-13 To Holy Fathers: Gal. 5:22 - 6:2; Lk. 6:17-23</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> <b>May 30</b></p>	<p><b>6:00pm Vespers</b></p>



***Sunday School Recap for May 10***

Being that last Sunday was Mother's Day it was the perfect time for the children to not only celebrate their own mothers but to learn about a few of the many mothers mentioned in the Bible and the important roles they played in shaping history. Their stories continue to provide guidance on the spiritual and moral aspects of motherhood. Here are but a few of them....

**EVE**—she is referred to as the First Mother and is called the "mother of all living". After the death of her son, Abel, God blessed her with another son, Seth. Through Eve mothers can find **hope and the resilience of motherhood**.

**JOCHEBED**—the mother of Moses. Her courage in placing her baby in a basket in the Nile in the hopes that he would not be killed show us the **protective and sacrificial aspects** a mother will go through to save her child from harm.

**NAOMI & RUTH**—theirs is a story of **grief, loyalty, love and redemption** shared between a mother, Naomi, and her daughter-in-law, Ruth. Both women are widows. Ruth remarries and becomes the mother of Obed who becomes the grandfather of King David, who is in the familial line of Joseph. *This establishes the legal descent of Jesus through the kings of Judah all the way back to David.*

**MARY--the Theotokas**, Mother of Jesus. By accepting God's call to bear and raise Jesus, she demonstrates **obedience, faith and courage**. Mary's grief in witnessing the crucifixion of her son is unimaginable. Her role as mother was intertwined with divine purpose, showing how mothers can shape history through faith and devotion.

After discussing the past, we jumped ahead to the secular history of Mother's Day. Due to space limitations, only a few facts we read about are presented here.

Anna Reeves Jarvis is credited with founding this holiday in 1908 as a way to honor not only her own mom but all mothers. In 1914 President Woodrow Will signed a bill making Mother's Day a national holiday to be celebrated the second Sunday in May. With the exception of Christmas, more flowers are sold on Mother's Day than at any other time of the year.

The white carnation is the official flower of this holiday. The shape of the flower and its life cycle represent a mother's love. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart—just like a mother would hug her child.

Jarvis died penniless at the age of 84 after spending all her money to fight what she saw as the aggressive exploitation for profit of the holiday. It was the exact opposite of how she envisioned the holiday to be. We can only imagine what she would think today knowing that Mother's Day has grown to become a \$25 billion holiday! The class ended with the children putting together "scent-imental" gift bags for their mothers or grandmothers, complete with a white carnation!

God bless you all!

~Ms. Debbie, Ms. Faith, Ms. Pat & Ms. Karen

### ***UOL Convention***

We are excited to announce that this year's UOL Convention will **take place here in Palos Park. July 29th through August 2, 2026**

If you would like to participate or volunteer, please see Faith Neswick, PM Olenka or Yurii Sendeha.

We will host hospitality night at Elements by the Odyssey in Orlnad Park on Wednesday night July 29th. Also, our chapter will host Ukrainian Night with great food and fashion show on Friday July 27 at our Church hall. On Sunday August 2 after the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy we will host brunch for everyone present. Volunteers welcome. *Yurii Sendeha*

### ***Sisterhood of St. Anne***

***We always happy to see volunteers in the church hall's kitchen. If you can give us an hour or two we will greatly appreciate that.***

#### **Updated Work Schedule:**

Monday May 18 8:30am prep potatoes

Tuesday May 19 5:30pm make perogies

Sunday May 31— Make cheese balls

Monday June 1 8:30am—make cheese perogies 5:30pm make SC.

Wednesday June 3 8:30am—pack stuffed cabbage

Thursday June 4 Perogie Sale 11:00am-3:00pm



## ***Seven Day Vigil Candles***



For the health and God's healing of Richard Kimak  
by Fr. Vasyl

For the health and quick recovery of Alma Howard  
by PM Olenka

For the health and God's blessings for Anatoli & Pamela Ome-  
lian by Fr. Vasyl

For the health and God's blessings of Patti Faye by John Batura

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- In loving memory of my mother Polina and Father Pavlo.  
Memory Eternal! Heavenly kingdom! by Halyna Kashpar
- In memory of our mother Oksana Sendeha om the 5th anni-  
versary of passing by Fr. Vasyl & Family

## ***Mother's day donation***

In memory of my mother Ollie Kuzanek  
by her daughter Sharon Burger-Zellinger — \$250.00

In memory of our mothers Mildred Nadey and Gloria Koleno  
by Bill & Gloria Nadey — \$200.00

## ***Parish Council***

Parish Council meets once a month. Next meeting is TODAY  
May 17 after the Coffee hour. There will be an oath ceremony  
after the Divine Liturgy for the new council.

## ***Seraphim Group***

### ***Seraphim save the date***

***Thursday, June 11th at 11:00 in the Church Hall we will be  
having  
a get together. We will be having a "class" on learning how  
to make  
little cloth pierogies. Details to follow...***

*Christ Is Risen, Debbie Pierog, President  
708-710-6009 (text or call)*

## Prayer Corner for the Month of May



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

Anne, Marcia, Carolyn, Judy, Donna, Danylo Drapala, Nina Gregosanc & family, Larry Pierog, Mark, Judy Broud, Mary Wisniowski, Mary Pirtle, Bob Lewandowski, Andy, Bohdan, Ralph Palm, David, Irine, Zoriana, Lev, Alla Grzynski, Nicole, John & Patti, Barbara Patronik, Barbara Bruce, Chloe McKinney, Yuriy Zmysly, Dorothy Seliga, Halyna & Wolodymer Kashpar, Mykola, Priest Vasyl Dovhan, Tina & Frankie, Alexander, Anatoli & Pamela, Janet, Sam and Rocky, Natalia, Natalia.

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

### **Pray for Our expecting mothers:**

Maria and Olha

New moms: Viktoria, Bozhena, Tetiana, Natalia, Anna, Krystyna, Pavai, Myroslava, Nataliia, Maria, Michelle.

*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.  
Fr. Vasyl*

## Memorial Service

**May 31** — In memory of all of those who have stepped into eternity in the month of May.



## Coffee Hour Schedule



### **We are back to 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 sign up the schedule is on the door of the church hall kitchen.

*May 17 – Fr. Vasyl & PM Olenka, Yurii & Nataliia Sendeha in memory of mother, grandmother Oksana Sendeha*

*May 24 — Michael & Michelle Supilowski & Faith Neswick*

*May 31 — Hrechka family*

*June 7 — open*

*June 14— Parents of First Confession Class Banquet*

*June 21— Father's Day Luncheon — Women of the parish*

*June 28— open*

*July 5 — open*

### **Mark your calendars**

**Sunday, June 14 at 9:30am** — First Confession and visit of His Eminence Archbishop Daniel. Banquet in honor of the First Confession Class.

**Sunday, June 21**— Father's day Luncheon

**Sunday June 28** — Parish Feast Day

**Sunday August 30** — Annual Parish Festival

### **Free ESL Classes/Класи Англійської мови**



ESL classes every Wednesday evening, in the Church Hall. Adults wishing to improve their English are welcome to join us at 5:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please see Pat Wolsko or Athena Gordan.

**Безкоштовні заняття КЛАСИ ESL** Кожної Середи о 5:30 вечора в церковній залі. Запрошуємо усіх, хто хоче вивчити мову, хто хоче стати більш вправним в розмові, читанні та написання англійської мови. Реєстраційні форми знаходяться на столі при вході у церкві. Якщо у вас є будь-які запитання, зверніться до Пет Волско, о. Василя або ПМ Оленки.