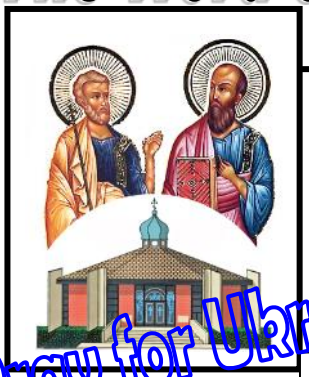
The Word of Sts. Peter & Paul



September 20, 2026

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10 Questions about priests

1. Who was the first Orthodox priest?
It is unknown. However, the Book of Acts mentions the "church presbyters" in Ephesus, who were not bishops like Timothy, the disciple of Apostle Paul. In the first centuries of Christianity, there were also chorepiscopus or "country bishops". Country bishops and presbyters differed slightly.

2. What is "a priest after the order of Melchizedek", and why does this excerpt refer to Christ? Who is Melchizedek?
Melchizedek was "the king of Salem" and was also a priest (Genesis 14:18, Psalms 110:4). His origin is absolutely unknown and unclear. Salem is often considered to be Jerusalem. But it can also be interpreted

as an unlocalized region which has unclear and probably Heavenly, origin. This symbolic obscurity of the place and origin is used in relation to the Lord Jesus Christ, Who embodies God, the King and the Priest in one Person.

3. Why do we need priests?

Do we need any mediator between God and the people after the coming of Christ, if He is a Mediator Himself? This is what the Protestants proclaim and continue to protest against the institute of priesthood for both the Orthodox and Catholic Christians. However, they forget one thing: Christ could solve this issue and cancel resolutely this "cult of priests". He could pass everything to simple people and the heads of the families all over the world. Nevertheless, Christ blessed to remain this ministry, without which Christianity would soon exhaust and fade. God knows better the reasons why we need priests and the Church with the Holy Sacraments.

4. If Christ calls the faithful people part of the "royal priesthood", then why are only special people allowed to celebrate The Holy Sacraments?

In the words of Holy Martyr Pavel Florensky, this is the argument of the "protesting priests".

If someone is in danger of dying such as a new born who can die in the hospital then any Orthodox Christian can baptize that person. In this case the short version of Baptism is performed, with water being poured over the child three times while the required prayers are read. The Sacrament of Baptism has taken place. Only after the child has recovered, a priest will anoint the child with the Holy Chrism in church. According to the life stories of saints, up until the 10th century a layman with a blessing of the priest could take the Holy Communion from only in case of emergency, and he give the Communion to another person. However, the Church, in which the Holy Spirit lives, took a decision to stop this practice and to forbid it in the next millennium.

5. What is the origin of the Sacrament of Holy Orders (Ordination)?

It originated from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and His Apostles. Apostle Paul asked his disciple Timothy,

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday **September 20** 8:45am Matins 9:30am Hours **10:00am** **Divine Liturgy**	**16th Sunday after Pentecost, after the Exaltation.** Tone 7 Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Martyr and Confessor Michael and his councilor Theodore, wonderworkers of Chernihiv (1245). Matins (5): Lk. 24:12-35; 2 Cor. 6:1-10; Mt. 25:14-30; Sunday after Exaltation: Gal. 2:16-20; Mk. 8:34-9:1;
Sunday **September 27** 8:15am Matins 9:00am Hours **9:30am** **Divine Liturgy**	**17th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 8** Martyr Callistratus and his company (49 Martyrs) of Carthage (304). Apostles Mark, Aristarchus, and Zenas of the Seventy. Martyr Epicharis of Rome (284). Ven. Ignatius, abbot (963-975). Matins Gospel (6): Lk. 24:36-53; 2 Cor. 6:16–7:1; Mt. 15:21-28;
Saturday **October 3**	Vesper at 6:00pm
Sunday **October 4** 8:45am Matins 9:30am Hours **10:00am** **Divine Liturgy**	**18th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 1** Hieromartyr Hierotheus, bishop of Athens (1st c.). Martyrs Gaius, Faustus, Eusebius, and Chaeremon of Alexandria (3rd c.). St. Volodymyr, son of Yaroslav the Wise, wonderworker (1052). Sts. Helladius, Onesimus, and Ammon of the Kyiv Caves (13th c.).Matins Gospel (7): Jn. 20:1-10; 2 Cor. 9:6-11; Lk. 5:1-11;
Sunday **October 11** 8:15am Matins 9:00am Hours **9:30am** **Divine Liturgy**	**19th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 2** Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787) Holy Apostle Philip of the Seventy, one of the seven deacons (1st c.). Ven. Theophanes the Confessor and Hymnographer, bishop of Nicaea (850). Martyrs Zenaida (Zenais) and Philonilla (1st c.). Ven. Theophanes, faster of the Kyiv Caves (12th c.). Matins .: (8): Ін. 20:11-18; 2 Кор. 11:31–12:9; Лк. Лк. 6:31-36; To Holy Fathers: Heb. 13:7-16; Jn. 17:1-13

"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands." (2 Timothy 1:6).
If this practice did not fully correspond the words of Christ, then Apostle Paul and other Apostles would have certainly rejected and forbidden it. The early Christians did not leave any written commentaries on the issue, as it was clear for them. While our goal is to preserve this Apostolic and Holy Tradition.
6. Why are priests allowed to forgive our sins? Who give them this right? It is the right that belongs to God alone.
Our Lord Jesus Christ gave this right to the Apostles. This event is clearly mentioned in the Holy Gospel: "And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained. (John 20:22-23)
Bishops were ordained through the laying on of the apostles' hands and received this right and those in turn thought ordination passed down this right to priests. Everything is very clear and simple.
7. How do people become priests? Who can become a priest?
Any person, who is "the husband of one wife", who is kind and passionate by nature, who has necessary education and has gone through the practice of prayerful and ascetic life, can become a priest.

8. Do priests make any vows? Or do they have any specific prayer rule or restrictions?
A man of the age of 30 can become a priest (according to the canonical rules). At the age of 25, one can become a deacon. Exceptions are possible (for example, Bishop Timothy, the disciple of Apostle Paul), but only exceptions – not the rules. A priest must be the husband of one wife in the full sense of these words. A young man who is going to become a priest is not allowed to have carnal relations with a woman. It is a vital rule that is quite difficult to fulfill, but it is very essential. It is not obsolete, so we need to follow it and to explain children that otherwise it will be impossible to become a priest since their childhood. This is how our grandfathers and fathers taught us. And this is how I taught my own children. In my opinion, we must be firm in this question until the very death, just like in our faith – until martyrdom.
The same concerns the issue of the second marriage. It is forbidden. *To be continued*

Parish Council

Monthly Council meting will take place on Sunday October 11 after Coffee hour. Guests are welcome.

Sunday's Second Collection

Sunday's Second Special Collection is dedicated each month to a different cause. Month of September is dedicated to College students care packages.

Sunday School

We are currently preparing our theme and related lessons, along with new instructional materials for this coming year. As we set up the classrooms and arrange for our class configurations by grade and age, as well as checking registration with parents, we will schedule our first day of Sunday School, for Sunday, September 20.
Parents of any new students should consult with Miss Pat for a registration form.
We look forward to learning more about our Orthodox Faith with each of you and your children.

In the Love and Glory of Jesus Christ,
Ms .Pat, Ms .Karen, Ms. Debbie and Ms. Faith

Sisterhood of St. Anne

Our monthly meeting is this Sunday after the Coffee Hour ***These meetings are open to ALL women of the parish 18 and over. We welcome your insight, input and inspiration. Please reach out to Athena Gordan with any questions regarding this vital ministry.***

Kitchen Work Schedule:
Sunday September 20 — Peel potatoes after Coffee hour
Monday September 21— Make Pot balls
Tuesday September 22— pinch pot perogies
Monday September 28 — make SK balls
Tuesday September 29 — Pinch SK perogies
Thursday October 1 — Perogie Sale

Eternal Light

- In memory of Nicole Larson by Gayle Woloschak
- In memory of Nicole Larson by Pat Wolsko
- In memory of Nicole Larson by Jeremy Oryhon

Seven Day Vigil Candles

For the health of Patti Faye by John Batura

- In memory of Nicole Larson by Fr. Vasyl & PM Olenka

Selreliance Association

Безкоштовне виповнення усіх документів для новоприбулих (Social Security. Work permit, Benefits) За інформацією просимо звертатись до Пані Матки Оленки Сендега "Асоціація Самопоміч." або за телефоном (773) 692-1010
We offer free of charge consultation as well as filling up applications for Social Security, work authorization and benefits for new immigrants. *For more info see PM Olenka.*

College Care Package

Parents and Guardians, do you have a son, daughter or grandchild enrolled in college or a vocational/trade school? If so, we want to let them know their parish family is thinking of them and praying for them in a very tangible way. It is our plan to send care packages from time to time throughout the academic year with little reminders of home and faith tucked inside. It is our hope that this would be a welcome break from the pressures of studies and late-night cram sessions. It doesn't matter if they are living on or off campus or commuting from home. Nor does it matter what year they are in. As long as they are pursuing their degree or certification, they are eligible. If this is something you know they would enjoy receiving, applications will be made available soon in the coming weeks. Until then, should you have any questions please reach out to one of the committee members: **Karen Larson, Athena Gordan, Debbie Pierog or Michelle Supilowski**.

Prayer Corner for the Month of September

We ask all of you to remember in your prayers the following individuals, who are in need of God's healing and grace: Rich & Lynn, Joshua Smith, Jake, 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 Grzymski, 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, Roman, Mykola, Kostia.

Pray for Our expecting mothers:
Marta and Tetiana

New moms: Olha, Maria, Viktoria, Bozhena, Tetiana, Natalia, Anna.

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

September 27 — In memory of all of those who have stepped into eternity in the month of September.

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.

September 20— Sloan Family in memory of Fr. Howard
September 27 — Pork & Chicken Roast
October 4 — open
October 11— Brezden Family in memory of father Orest
October 18 — Anatoli & Pamela Omelian in memory of mother Maria (Baba Mia) on her birthday
October 25 —open

Mark your calendars

Sunday September 20 — First day of Sunday School
Sunday September 27 — Pork & Chicken Roast Dinner at Noon
Sunday November 8 — Parish Family Thanksgiving Dinner
Sunday January 10 — Parish Family Christmas Dinner

ESL Classes

ESL CLASS
After a very busy summer at Sts. Peter & Paul Church, we plan to resume our English classes in the Church Hall on Wednesday, September 16, at 5:30 p.m. Don't forget to bring your summer "homework". We hope you had an enjoyable summer in spite of our stormy August. We look forward to seeing old and new students on September 16, 2026
In Christ, Pat Wolsko and Athena Gordan

Безкоштовні заняття КЛАСИ ESL Відновлюємо безкоштовні уроку Англійсщкої мови з 18 Вересня 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 Оленка.