The Word of Sts. Peter & Paul

September 27, 2026

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Pray for Ukraine

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10 Questions about priests

Continued from the previous bulletin

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.

Either you serve as a priest, or leave this ministry if you are going to get married for the second time. This is the source of sorrows for the clergy, but we cannot reject this principle. Otherwise, the Church will fall with the course of time, and we ourselves will be blame for that.

Priests do have a prayer rule, just like laypeople do have one: you need to read the morning and evening prayers. Before every liturgy, you have to read the Prayers before the Holy Communion adding certain specific prayers for priests.

9. Is it true that for an Orthodox Christian layperson the word of the priest is the law? What does it mean to have "have despised the word of a Priest"? What is the extent of the priests influence?

Unfortunately, not all lay person and not all priests realize the fearsome power of the weapon that is the word. Although from personal practice it is known how dangerous and scary it can be. Despised would mean to stamp on. This is something that should not be done. If you are not ready to do as the priest says then do not ask since no one has taken away your freedom to do as you wish. But if you did ask then listen. This is the concept is more appropriate in relation elders. Saint Seraphim would tell my elderly father:

"Please, dear priests, try not to be too specific and force someone to do something but instead quote a saint or a recommendation of another priest. Because if you end up being to specific and demand too much and the person you tell it to does not obey then he will face difficulties, hardships and it will not be to his benefit. Hold yourself back from commanding other."

These are very wise and very practical words.

Most priest do not realize the extent of their power. Saint John Chrysostom best describes this in his words about priesthood and Saint Siluan the Athonite mentions the same topic.

Liturgical Schedule

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;
Thursday **October 1**	Protection of the Mother of God Divine Liturgy 9:00am
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.). 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
Sunday **October 18** 8:45am Matins 9:30am Hours **9:30am** **Divine Liturgy**	**20th Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 3** Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke (1st c.). Martyr Marinus the Elder at Anazarbus (4th c.). Ven. Julian (4th c.). Matins (9): Jn. 20, 19-31; Gal. 1:11-19; Lk. 7:11-16; To Apostle: Col. 4:5-9, 14, 18; Lk. 10:16-21;

10. Who is a spiritual father and how does one become one?
A priest can become someone's spiritual father by default and because a person goes to certain church. The church that a person goes to and the priest that he confesses to can become his spiritual father. If a person is still searching for one then prayer would be the answer. God will send you the right spiritual father whom a person can understand, more responsive and someone who leads by Christ's example. In Ancient times, the elder and wise priests were chose to be spiritual fathers. Here in Moscow we have two spiritual fathers for all of the clergy. As priests were also need to confess on a regular basis. A spiritual father is not required to be an elder or a saint. It is only required for him to be humble and simple, without being prideful over his parishioners, one who prays and fasts. Overall it should a regular and simple priest and thank God that we still have plenty of such priests.

Sunday School Corner

It was a pleasure to welcome back our students from our summer break. We began our lesson with a quick review of listing a few things they learned last year and this was accompanied with what they would like to know about our faith this year. Following this brief discussion, we introduced a printed handout which guided the next part of our lesson to what it is to be Orthodox. During this exchange of questions and answers , we explained some distinctions between the Orthodox Faith and other Christian Faiths. Students were very engaged, helping us realize that we would continue with this topic next week. All of this is leading us to our main theme for this year which is, "Our Journey through the Divine Liturgy" , which you will be reading about in the weeks to come.

With our devotion to teaching our youth a clearer understanding of our Faith, we encourage you to join us with your questions,

Ms. Pat, Ms. Karen, Ms. Debbie, and Ms. Faith

Parish Council

Monthly Council meting will take place on Sunday October 18 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. October-Sunday School Supplies.

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. Insodes and new ideas are welcome. If you have any questions please see Athena Gordan.***

Kitchen Work Schedule:
Monday September 28 — 8:30am make SK balls
Tuesday September 29 — 5:30pm Pinch SK perogies
Thursday October 1 — Perogie Sale

Sunday Oct. 4 — after coffee hour peel potatoes
Monday Oct. 5 — 8:30am make Pot balls
Tuesday Oct. 6 — 5:30pm make pot perogies
Monday Oct. 12— 8:30am make Sk balls
Tuesday Oct. 13— 5:300pm make SK perogies

Monday Oct. 19— 8:30am make Cheese balls
Tuesday Oct. 20— 5:30pm make cheese perogies
Sunday Oct. 25— after coffee hour peel potatoes
Monday Oct. 26— 8:30am make pot balls
Tuesday Oct. 27—5:30pm make pot perogirs

Monday Nov 2— 8:30am prep for Stuffed cabbage
Tuesday Nov 3— 5:30pm make stuffed cabbage
Wednesday Nov. 4—8:30am pack stuffed cabbage
Thursday Nov. 5— Sale 11am-3pm

Eternal Light

In memory of Nicole Larson by Carol Redmerski

Seven Day Vigil Candles

For the health and God's blessings for Tina Palasti by Gbur & Lang Families
For the health and God's blessings of Lilian Cepynsky by Gbur & Lang Families

- In memory of Patricia on the 1st anniversary of her stepping into eternal life by Halyna Kashpar
- In memory of my parens Pavlo & Polian Memory Eternal. Heavenly Kingodm by Halyna Kashpar

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 27 — Pork & Chicken Roast
October 4 — Sisterhood of St. Anne
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 — Larson Family in memory of Nicole Larson

Mark your calendars

TODAY — 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.