



**SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**SERVICES: March 22, 2020 – March 29, 2020**

Sunday, March 22, 2020.....9:00 – Hours; 9:30 am - Liturgy; Coffee Hour, Adult study  
Tuesday, March 24, 2020.....6pm Vespers – ANNUNCIATION  
Wednesday, March 25, 2020.....9:30 am – Divine Liturgy  
Friday, March 27, 2020.....6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy; Lenten Reception  
Saturday, March 28, 2020 .....9:30 am – Divine Liturgy – SOUL SATURDAY

**March 22, 2020**

**Hebrews 4:14-5:6 (Epistle)**

*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”;*

**Mark 8:34-9:1 (Gospel)**

*When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”*

**Prayer List**

We offer our prayers for all of our shut-ins who are unable to attend church services, especially: Vera Tatusko. Also offer your prayers for those in need especially Helen Baburchak, Jessica Barton, Mat. Joanna Bohush, Lydia Boras, Laura Chapin, Elaine Costello; Connie Devine; Bill Dranchak, Marilee Driggs; Paul and Babe Farbanish, Tony Fiacco; Thanos Fotiou, Anthony Gallis, Justin Garcia, Kristine Garner; Kathy Gregory; Marge Herciga; Stella Holowatch; Mat. Anastasia Karlgut, Natalia Karlgut; Sue Kocenko, Olga Kulasza, Robert Kushner, Alicia Laskowski; Tatiana Lechtman, Linda Main; George Murphy, Alexander Newsom; Tanya Pylypciw, Janeel Rahman, Sheila Ransom, Mohamed Rawoof, Joni Mitchell, Ann Sawchak, Tyler Sunday; Millie Sviatyla, Tamara Sytnik, Dorothy Tarasevich, Rachelle Vitale, Elayna Volock, Jack Wanchisen, Olga Warski, Bob Wartonik; Robert Wilkes, Valentina Yelangy, Frank Urban & all of our parishioners who are ill. To add or remove names from the prayer list in the bulletin, please let Fr. Alexey or Fr. Timm know.

All in-person parish and mission events and activities outside of the prescribed liturgical services, including coffee hour, Church School, Parish Council and ministry meetings and the rest, remain cancelled until further notice.

## Universal Exaltation of The Holy Cross

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is lifted up in our midst on this Feast of its Universal Exaltation, we are led to contemplate the great offering that was made by our Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation. On this Cross He died for all, so we might live for Him (II Corinthians 5:15). *Through faith in Him, we are a new creation, the old has passed away... as God, through Christ has reconciled us to Himself* (II Corinthians 5:17-18).

We have been reconciled to God through Christ by His grace. From His great love for us, Christ entered our humanity, sharing in it unto death on the Cross. The magnitude of His love for us as His creation was revealed through this tremendous offering. In love He acted for our sake so that He might restore His image within us and renew our communion with Him. In love He revealed His great mercy and offered us forgiveness of our sins.

Our reconciliation to God through the Cross was an act of great sacrifice. In lifting up the Cross before us, we recognize that an instrument of grace was also an instrument of suffering and death. We acknowledge the unfathomable burden that was assumed by our Lord as He took our sin upon Himself as an unblemished offering.

Through His sacrifice we are reconciled to God because we come to the Precious Cross in faith. We look upon it, and we proclaim the power that was revealed. We believe in the mighty act of redemption that was accomplished by our Lord upon the Cross. In faith we repent of our sins, receiving God's grace and seeking to be reconciled with our Creator.

As we are reconciled to God through Christ and the Cross, we are given the *ministry of reconciliation* (II Corinthians 5:18-19). We are called by our Lord and emboldened by His Life-Giving Cross to share the grace of God. From lives that are being transformed and commitment to our commission to share the Gospel, we demonstrate the power of the Cross to restore life, to renew, to heal and to save.

Our ministry of reconciliation is also a witness of sacrifice just as He gave His life for us. We give in full measure. We offer our lives, our gifts and our resources so that others might come to the Cross. We stand in the face of persecution and suffering, proclaiming a message of reconciliation so that others may have abundant and eternal life. Through that message, we ask all to look to Christ, to believe in Him and to be reconciled to God.



*to all our visitors and guests who participate in our celebration of the Divine Liturgy! While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross & receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We invite all of our guests to join us for our Fellowship Hour & to visit our Bookstore.*

For bulletin inputs, contact Fr. Alexey, Fr. Timm or e-mail us at [sspeterandpauloffice@gmail.com](mailto:sspeterandpauloffice@gmail.com)

\*\*\*Visit us at our website: [ssppeny.org](http://ssppeny.org) \*\*\*