

# SS. PETER & PAUL

Lorain, OH | [www.OrthodoxLorain.org](http://www.OrthodoxLorain.org) | (440) 277-6266

Rev. Joseph McCartney, Rector

Cell Phone: (440) 668 - 2209 ~ Email: [frjoseph@me.com](mailto:frjoseph@me.com) ~ Home Phone: (440) 654-2831

**Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 8:28 - 9:1**  
**Epistle Reading ~ Romans 10:1 -10**  
***Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily***

*This Week at a Glance*

**Sat, July 15th**

4:00 pm - Great Vespers

**Sun, July 16th**

9:00 am - The Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

## **Parish Council**

There will be a Parish Council Meeting today following Coffee Hour.

## **Choir Practice**

There will be a Choir Practice today following Coffee Hour.



## **Gospel Meditation**

The Gospel reading for last Sunday taught us a lesson on the deep humility of the Roman Centurion, who came to ask Christ for the healing of his servant. But today's Gospel does not give us a lesson of what we should do, but rather shows us what we should avoid, what we should not do. This shows us the striking reality of the existence of the power of evil. In our time such a reality doesn't even require proof. Every day, every newspaper tells about a whole list of crimes which simply cannot be explained without recognizing that the person is possessed by an external, evil power.

Today's Gospel draws a terrible picture for us: two demoniacs came out from the tombs, "exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way" (Mt. 8:28). Christ permitted the demons to enter into a huge herd of swine. The possessed ones were healed, but the whole herd of swine jumped from the precipice into the sea. What a terrible force! A real, overt force of evil!

But here is the last verse of the Gospel: "And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus" (Mt. 8:34). And now you expect to find something gladdening: the whole town has united in order to meet the Lord. You want to think that it was faith that united them, that they, as once did the Samaritans, would ask the Lord to remain with them, would thank Him for His healing, for the salvation of two of their townspeople, and also for freeing them from the danger present when passing that way. And what happened? Yes, they asked the Lord, but not to stay with them, but rather to "depart out of their coasts!"

Brothers and sisters, let us examine our soul. Doesn't the same thing happen with us? Some kind of passion takes possession of us, but Christ becomes an obstacle. And in our soul, we whisper the same terrible words: "Go away from us." May the Lord keep us from this! May our words directed to Him always be: "Come to us and never leave us."

*- Archbishop Andrei Rymarenko, 1893-1978*

## Email Update

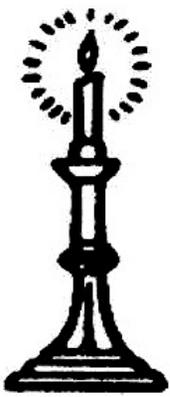
Due to security changes to my frjoseph@me.com email account, I will no longer be able to check this account on my phone. **Please change my contact email to: frjosephmccartney@gmail.com.**

### Thank You!

A special thank you to Virginia Waratinsky for sponsoring the kitchen floor renovation. The floor looks wonderful! May God reward your generosity!

### Thank You!

Another thank you to Midge, Delaine, Olga, Donna, Joan R for cleaning the kitchen and getting it back into working order after the floor renovations. Also Thank you to Alex Morris for cleaning the stove tops!



### Basic Information on the Divine Liturgy (A Candle - Your Offering)

Upon entering the church, Orthodox Christians light a candle before an icon as a reminder to let the light of Christ shine in us. As Christ said in the Sermon on the Mount, "You are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 5: 14, 16) Candles are also burned as a prayer offering and for the commemoration of the departed who are with Christ. A donation is made for the candle in an amount determined by the person. They then venerate the icon of the season, say their own private prayers, and join the congregation in worship. They stand, sit, or kneel and cross themselves, stand or sit, as the moment requires.

## Heiromartyr Pancratius the Bishop of Taormina in Sicily

The Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina, was born when our Lord Jesus Christ yet lived upon the earth.

The parents of Pancratius were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, Pancratius' father took his young son with him and went to Jerusalem in order to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He became close with the disciples of the Lord, especially with the holy Apostle Peter. It was during this period that young Pancratius got to know the holy Apostle Peter.

After the Ascension of the Savior, one of the Apostles came to Antioch and baptized the parents of Pancratius together with all their household. When the parents of Pancratius died, he left behind his inherited possessions and went to Pontus and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer and deep spiritual contemplation. The holy Apostle Peter, while passing through those parts, visited Pancratius at Pontus. He took him along to Antioch, and then to Sicily, where the holy Apostle Paul then was. There the holy Apostles Peter and Paul made Saint Pancratius Bishop of Taormina in Sicily.

Saint Pancratius toiled zealously for the Christian enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith.

Saint Pancratius governed his flock peacefully for many years. However, pagans plotted against the saint, and seizing an appropriate moment, they fell upon him and stoned him. Thus, Saint Pancratius ended his life as a martyr.