

# Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

November 26, 2023

Tone 8



## 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

*St. Philaret (Drozdov),  
Metropolitan of Moscow  
(1867)*

### Divine Liturgy Readings

*(Readings on Back)*

- ◆ Ephesians 4:1-6
- ◆ Luke 13:10-17

## Announcements:

### Panikhida

Today's Panikhida was requested by Cecilia Falcon, and is being said for the departed members of her family:

James, Frank, Mary, Frank, Mercedes, Frank, Joanne and Sherri  
May the Kingdom of Heaven be theirs, and may their memory be eternal!

### Cookies Needed

If you are able and would like to bake cookies for our upcoming Christmas Food Sale, please sign up on the bulletin board for the type of cookies you'd like to make. Or contact Midge for more info 440-949-7653.

### Christmas Food Sale Prep Help Needed

On Friday, December, 8th we will be in the church basement to prepare foods that will be sold at our upcoming Food Sale.

8am - Boil & Clean Cabbage

10:30am - Roll Cabbages

12pm - Small batch of Pierogies

Any help is greatly appreciated, and helps us reach our goals!

### Tall Center Candles

Due to increasing requests to sponsor the candles, we will be making a slight change. The sponsored candles will be started at Vespers on Saturday evening, and then again on the Sunday requested. At the end of the liturgy, they will be placed in the sand and your prayers for your loved ones will continue burning throughout the day. Approx burn time 13hrs.

## The Week Ahead

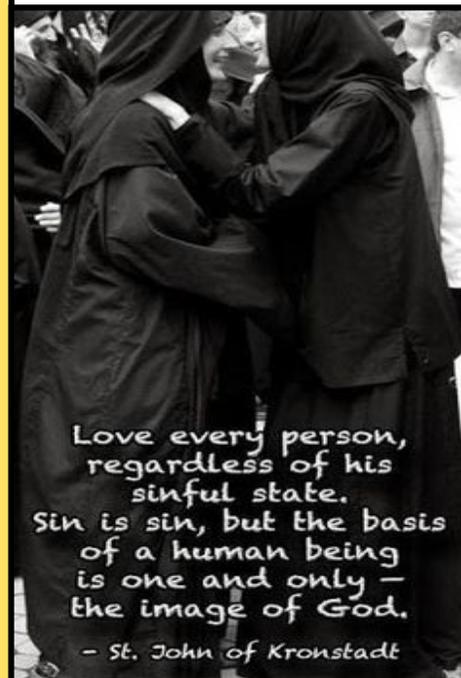
### Saturday, December 2

6:00pm - Great Vespers

### Sunday, December 3

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy



Love every person,  
regardless of his  
sinful state.  
Sin is sin, but the basis  
of a human being  
is one and only -  
the image of God.  
- St. John of Kronstadt

## *Meditation on Today's Readings*

When Jesus Christ was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath, he saw a woman who was bent over and could not straighten up. She had been that way for eighteen years. Imagine how her life had changed due to her disability, how frustrating that chronic illness had to be, especially in a time before modern medicine and physical therapy. The Lord said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." When He laid hands on her, she was healed. When the woman stood up straight again, she glorified God.



As was often the case when the Savior healed on the Sabbath day, there were those standing around just waiting to criticize Him for working on the day of rest. He responded to them by noting that people do what is necessary to take care of their animals on the Sabbath. "So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" The force of His point was so clear that those self-righteous hypocrites were put to shame and the people rejoiced.

In these weeks of the Nativity Fast, we pray, fast, give to the needy, and confess and turn away from our sins as we prepare to celebrate the wonderful news of the Incarnation of the Son of God, of our Lord's birth at Christmas for the salvation of the world. Today's gospel text provides a beautiful image of what Jesus Christ has done for us by becoming a human being by uniting divinity and humanity in His own Person. These weeks of preparation give us all the opportunity to gain the spiritual clarity to see ourselves in that poor woman bent over and bound with chronic, debilitating infirmity.

Though we often do our best to hide it, we are all too well acquainted with illness, pain, and death. We face chronic challenges of various kinds from which we cannot deliver ourselves or our loved ones. We have diseases of soul, of personality, of behavior, and of relationships that cripple us, that keep us from acting, thinking, and speaking with the joyful freedom of the children of God. We are all bent over and crippled in profound ways in relation to the Lord, our neighbors, and even ourselves. We have all fallen short of fulfilling God's gracious purposes for us, as has every generation since Adam and Eve.

The Lord did not treat the woman in today's reading according to her physical condition as simply an impersonal bundle of disease. Instead, He revealed her true identity as a beloved person, a daughter of Abraham, by enabling her to stand up straight for the first time in years. On that particular Sabbath day, Jesus Christ treated her as a unique, cherished child of God who was not created for slavery to a wretched existence of pain, disease, and despair, but for blessing, health, and joy. She glorified God for this deliverance from bondage, for this restoration of freedom, as did those who saw the miracle.

The good news of Christmas is that the Savior is born to do the same for us all, to set us free from captivity to the decay, corruption, and weakness that have taken root in our souls. He comes to deliver us from being defined by our infirmities so that we can leave behind our bondage and enter into the joyous freedom of the children of God. He comes to restore us as living icons who manifest His glory and salvation as the unique persons He created us to be.

In the remaining weeks of the Nativity Fast, let us follow St. Paul's advice to acquire "the fruit of the Spirit...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, [and] self-control." Let us use this season to crucify "the flesh with the passions and the lusts" as we are loosed from the debilitating corruptions of sin by the mercy of the God-Man born for our salvation. As we pray, fast, give to the needy, and confess and repent of our sins this Advent, let us do so with the joyful hope of the woman who could finally stand up straight after eighteen years. For the Savior is born to deliver us from bondage in all its forms. It is time to rise up with Him into the blessed life of holiness He comes to share with us, for we have already had more than enough of pain and infirmity. As daughters and sons of Abraham by faith, let us embrace the healing that is ours in Jesus Christ.

- Fr. Philip LeMasters

## Advent: A Time of Preparation

Just when we need it, the holy season of Advent arrives. Rather than being burdensome, the spiritual habits and prescriptions given to us in the Church are a lifeline. Certainly, there have been times when we struggle to understand why we approach Christmas with such sobriety. This is a season for parties! For gifts! For happy celebrations! For family! What's this fasting in the midst of "'tis the season to be jolly"?

In such a festive season, how can we prepare for Christ's arrival? The Church gives us these ways:

**+Increase our prayer.** Advent is a time to remember that in God, we move and breathe and have our being, and we must be with Him and consciously in Him before we can have authentic love and relationship with others.

**+Give alms.** St. John Chrysostom writes, "It is not enough to help the poor. We must help them with generosity and without grumbling. And it is not enough to help them without grumbling. We must help them gladly and happily. When the poor are helped there ought to be these two conditions: generosity and joy."

**+Attend more services.** Are we accustomed to being in church only on Sunday morning? Attend a Saturday Vespers service or special Feast Day service. Something different may catch our attention or bring us to new insight and growth in our spiritual life.

**+Remember some of the unique and remarkable saints of the Advent season,** reading about their lives and celebrating their days of remembrance. Check your wall calendar or visit [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org) for the lives of the saints.

**+Go to confession.** If there is any act out of step with the vain and glib holiday atmosphere presented to us by the spirit of this age, it is act of the repentant Christian confessing his or her sins.

**+Incorporate the Church's traditions in ways that make sense for us here and now.** If we are not perfect fasters by any means, at least try to eat more simply in the season of Advent. Listen to Orthodox Christmas hymns on Ancient Faith Radio. Plan a traditional Holy Supper on Christmas Eve.

**+Volunteer.** Give a little of your free time to those who need it: The parish, the soup kitchen, even your elderly neighbor.

### Prayers Appreciated for:

#### Living:

Marge  
Katherine,  
Paula, Marianne,  
Suleiman, Steve  
Janet, Christina

#### Departed:

Protodeacon Nicholas  
Lester

#### Tall Candles

Tall candles are given by  
Cecilia Falcon  
in loving memory of the  
departed members of her  
family:

James, Frank, Mary, Frank,  
Mercedes, Frank, Joanne and  
Sherri.  
Memory Eternal!

### WEEKLY READINGS

#### Monday, Nov. 27

*Greatmartyr James the Persian*  
1 Timothy 1:1-7  
Luke 19:37-44

#### Tuesday, Nov. 28

*Martyr Irenarchus*  
1 Timothy 1:8-14  
Luke 19:45-48

#### Wed, Nov. 29

*Ven. Acacius of Sinai*  
1 Tim. 1:18-20, 2:8-15  
Luke 20:1-8

#### Thurs, Nov. 30

*Apostle Andrew, the First-Called*  
1 Cor. 4:9-16  
John 1:35-51

#### Friday, Dec. 1

*Prophet Nahum*  
1 Tim. 4:4-8, 16  
Luke 20:19-26

#### Saturday, Dec. 2

*Ven. Alexei (Kabalyuk) (1947)*  
Galatians 3:8-12  
Luke 12:32-40

Saints Peter & Paul  
Orthodox Church  
2238 E 32nd Street Lorain, OH 44055

# CHRISTMAS

*Food, Cookies, & Nut Roll Sale*

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am to 12:00pm

Nut Rolls & Poppy Seed Rolls: \$12  
*(limited quantity, order early - we sell out every year!)*

Cookies or Baklava by the pack: Small \$6 | Large \$12  
*Your choice of: Crescents (w/ nuts), Pecan Tassies,  
Russian Tea Cake, Christmas Cookies (with or without nuts), or Baklava*

Stuffed Cabbage: \$24 / dozen

Russian Czar Dinner: \$15  
*2 stuffed cabbage, 2 piroghi, cabbage and noodles,  
sausage and slaw*

Cabbage & Noodles: \$5 / 16 oz.

Deadline to order: December 2nd

To be guaranteed your order:  
You must preorder via email at: [orders@orthodoxlorain.org](mailto:orders@orthodoxlorain.org)  
You will get a confirmation email, you need this.

Bring the confirmation email with you.  
If you don't have a confirmation, we  
don't have your order.

## *Today's Scripture Readings*

### **Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6**

Brethren, I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

### **Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him."

*Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!*

## **Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church**

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[www.OrthodoxLorain.org](http://www.OrthodoxLorain.org)

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