

Church Bells

Traditionally every Church has its bell tower. But did our Churches always have bells? No, history tells us. During the years when the Christians were persecuted there were no bells. When they had to be notified that they were to congregate some place to worship Almighty God, they were informed by other means, they were notified secretly.

In the Christian East, bells appeared for the first time in Constantinople in the year 865 AD. A certain nobleman from Venice, Italy, sent Emperor John twelve bells as a gift for the Church of the Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia). They were called “campanes” because they were made from certain metals from the mines of Campania, a district in Italy. When the bells were first rung in Constantinople, the pious people felt a great joy. They thought that the angels had come down to earth and were sounding the trumpets, calling people to Church.

Church bells are useful. Just as soldiers are called by the trumpet, Christians, who are called and should be soldiers of Christ Our Savior, are called by the Church bells. They are called to Church to fight the demons with the most powerful spiritual weapon, prayer. The Church bells call us to worship on Sundays and to celebrate the great Holy Days of Christianity. It is true that the Church bells are connected with our whole life: when one is baptized the Church bells ring, when a couple is married they ring, but also to announce with a sad tone when one is being led in a funeral procession for burial.

During my travels to Eastern Europe I have witnessed how the faithful, when they would hear the bells ringing, would cross themselves in a pious way. This is a very good and healthy tradition that we should also practice in our lives.

We must be reminded of the fact that there are those who dislike the ringing of Church bells. They blaspheme when they hear them ringing. Sadly, we also have in our midst indifferent and cold Christians who are not moved at all when they hear the Church bells ringing. We must pray for them and ask Our Lord to open their hearts to the ringing of our Church bells that call us all to a life of sanctification-divinization, to Divine Worship and Christian fellowship which we can all experience in our Holy Churches.



Announcements

Today: Sermon on Holy Orders

Next Sunday, August 1st, Seminarian Andriy Kelt will be receiving Minor Orders and Subdiaconate at our Cathedral of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio. Today, Seminarian Andriy will explain to us the meaning of Holy Orders in our Church and what is Subdiaconate. As a parish family let us offer our prayers for Seminarian Andriy as he continues his journey towards Holy Priesthood.

Dormition Fast

Next Sunday, August 1st, we will begin in our Holy Church the Dormition Fast-“Spasiwka”. This Fast begins August 1st and ends on August 14th, and is a time of preparation for the Feast of the Dormition-Falling Asleep of the Mother of God. We will begin this journey of the Dormition Fast with the Lesser Blessing of Water on Saturday, July 31st, at 5:00 p.m. Join us on Saturday evening, July 31st, at 5:00 p.m. for this beautiful Divine Service and to receive Holy Water. During this upcoming Dormition Fast-Spasiwka, plan to also attend the special Divine Services, honoring the Most Holy Theotokos.

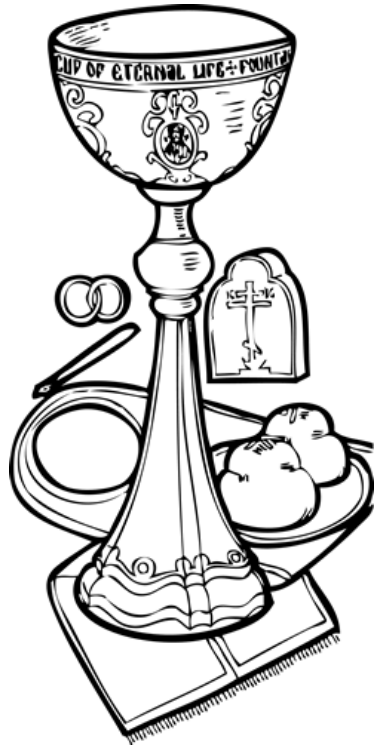
Celebration of Ukraine’s Independence

This year’s celebration of Ukraine’s Independence will take place Sunday, August 29th, from 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Alpine Club in Bridgeville (220 Alpine Rd.). Tickets are \$10 advance sales; \$15 at the door; \$1 child/students. You can enjoy delicious Ukrainian food or shop for some Ukrainian souvenirs. At 3:00 p.m. the cultural program will begin with the famous virtuoso bandurist Ostap Stakhiv followed by performances by Kyiv Dance Ensemble, Poltava Dance Ensemble, Ridna Shkola and the Chervona Kalyna youth group. For ticket information please contact Anna Konecky at 412-343-0309. More information is also available on our bulletin board in the Church vestibule.

Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday, July 18, 2010 was \$1384.00.

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!



Prayerful Remembrance

Following the Epiclesis (Consecration of the Gifts) the newly-ordained Priest approaches the Bishop and receives a portion of the Holy Lamb (XC portion) with these words:

Bishop: Receive this pledge, and preserve it whole and unharmed until your last breath, because you shall be held accountable for it at the Second and terrible Coming of Our Great Lord and God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The newly-ordained Priest kisses the Bishop's hand and going to stand at the back of the Holy Table, he prays Psalm 50 quietly to himself.

Dear Parishioners:

On August 13th, 2000, through the Laying-on of Hands (Cheirotonia) of His Grace Bishop +Pavlo (Vasylyk) of blessed memory I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood for our Eparchy of St. Josaphat. The ordination took place on the Apodosis (Final Day) of the Transfiguration of Our Lord at the Church of St. Nicholas outside the city of Kolomya, Ukraine.

Being ordained to the Holy Priesthood, your life is “transfigured” and you are sent by the Eparchial Bishop to continue this “transfiguration” in the midst of our faithful, through the administration of the Holy Mysteries and preaching/teaching the Word of God.

Every day I give thanks for this great gift of the Holy Priesthood, but in a particular way on Sunday, August 8th, I wish to give thanks for this great gift with you. Ten years is not a long time but I wish to share with you this journey as an opportunity to pray for vocations and to pray for all priests and monastics in our Holy Church. As part of this celebration, following the Divine Liturgy we will have refreshments in our Church hall.



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

You are also God's building. Using the gift that God gave me, I did the work of an expert builder and laid the foundation...Some will use gold or silver or precious stones in building on the foundation...And the quality of each person's work will be seen when the Day of Christ exposes it.

I Corinthians 3:9-17

In today's Epistle reading, St. Paul speaks of various foundations on which people build their lives; gold, silver, wood, hay... Some foundations will survive, he says; others will not.

Every one of us is building a house called life. It is a lifetime job. Everything we think and do and say goes into the structure to become part of our life house. One day – says Our Lord – this life house will be tested to see of what material it is made. The storm will come. And whether the house stands or falls will be due not to the weather but to the material that went into it, to the foundation underneath.

A story is told of a little boy who fell out of a boat and climbed upon a rock during a storm. After he was rescued, he was asked if he had been afraid. “Sure, I was afraid,” he replied, “I trembled all over, but never once did the rock ever tremble.”

In Psalm 18: 2 we read the following” “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” Today let us ask ourselves: Are you building your life on this rock? Even though the Apostle Peter was drowning today we witness later on in Matthew 17:17-19 how Our Lord called Peter a Rock. It is on such believing, fully surrendered persons that Christ Our Savior has built His Church through the centuries. “You are Peter – a rock, and upon this rock I will build My Church.” The Apostle Peter's faith made him a rock.

What is important for us is a foundation that holds; a foundation that does not shake; a foundation that affords security in time of need, that solid foundation is none other than Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

