

SS. PETER & PAUL

Lorain, OH | www.OrthodoxLorain.org | (440) 277-6266

Rev. Joseph McCartney, Rector

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Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 9:1-8
Epistle Reading ~ Romans 12:6-14

Holy Apostles of the Seventy and Deacons: Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, and Parmenas

This Week at a Glance

Sat, Aug 3rd

6:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sun, Aug 4th

9:00 am - 3rd & 6th
Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Grave Blessings

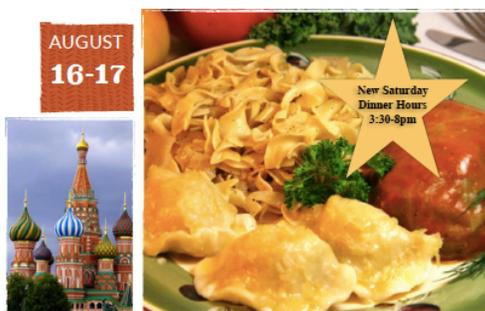
Grave Blessings

Weather permitting will take place Sunday, August 4th after Liturgy.

Gospel Meditation

Real faith does not depend upon healing miracles as its basis. Real faith depends upon the acceptance of God as maker of heaven and earth totally, unconditionally and unquestionably. Real faith is akin to leaping into the abyss in the assured knowledge that you will be caught in the loving arms of the living God. Real faith is its own reward. However, healing miracles are of assistance as they point to a power which is beyond this world and has all of creation as its dominion.

So what are the lessons from the paralytic and his friends in today's Gospel Reading? I think there are a number of points to ponder. Firstly there is the unshakeable faith of the friends. They had total conviction that they would succeed if only they could come before the Christ. Secondly, we do not need to ask to be healed. Christ did not say to the paralytic "what is it you want". He healed him freely. In a similar way Christ knows what we need before we ask him. Thirdly, as people in the world today with all its secular pressures, we all need some assurance that Christ is the God of the living. The world today, despite all its cynicism and atheism, if it was confronted with a miracle that allowed it to exclaim "we never saw anything like this" would in an instant cause all churches to be filled with people on their knees praying for repentance and lamenting the state of their souls. However, that is not how Christ wishes us to enter his kingdom. Christ wants us to seek the kingdom not out of self interest in that we would know that the alternative leads to the path to damnation but out of the exercise of free will and in the committed expectation that God loves us totally, unconditionally and unquestionably. It is only then we can be said to be the children of God.



RUSSIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

2238 E. 32nd Street
Lorain, OH 44055
(440) 277-6266
www.OrthodoxLorain.org

Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Friday, August 16th 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, August 17th 3:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Continuous Entertainment!

Featured Menu Items: Fish Fry, Russian Imperial Dinner, Beef Stroganoff, Borscht, Pirogi Dinners, Stuffed Cabbage, Cabbage & Noodles, Kielbasa & Kraut sandwich, Russian Hoagie

PLUS: Russian Style Crepes (*blini*), Nutrolls, Poppyseed Rolls, Cookies and assorted bakery!

Enjoy Russian Beers & Vodka at our Beer & Wine Tent!

Festival Supplies

Please pick an envelope on the bulletin board to donate items for the Food Festival. The more we can get donated the more profit the festival makes. As always, thank you for your generous support!

