

Christ took upon Himself the sins of the World



## Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

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### HOLY MYSTERIES

**VISITATIONS OF THE SICK AND INFIRM** - If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Father Stephen at the Rectory. Our hospitalization code for Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals is **UKR**.

**EMERGENCY CALLS** - Please call the Rectory anytime (day or night) in an Emergency!

**BAPTISMS** - Celebrated by appointment.

**CROWNING IN MARRIAGE** - Please discuss timing with Father prior to setting a date. At least six months notice is needed. There are three 2-hour courses that must be attended prior to the Wedding.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** - The deadline for getting information printed in the Weekly Bulletin is Wednesday.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS** - For the Needs of the Parish; 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Ministry

**March 29, 2020**  
**Volume 56: Number 13**  
**Schedule of Services and Activities**  
**Week of March 29 – April 5, 2020**  
**Celebrating our 93<sup>rd</sup> year of Service to the Lord**

**Sunday, March 29 – Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast – St. John of the Ladder - Tone 8**  
**9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful – Live streaming**

**Wednesday, April 1**  
**11:00 AM – 1:00 PM - Church Opened for Private Prayer**  
**6:00 – Canon of St. Andrew – Live Streaming**

**Friday, April 3**  
**11:00 AM – 1:00 PM - Church Opened for Private Prayer**  
**6:00 – Presanctified Liturgy – Live Streaming**

**Sunday, April 5 – Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast – St. Mary of Egypt - Tone 1**  
**9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful – Live Streaming**

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As per the instructions of the Hierarchs of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the services listed will be celebrated with very few people in the Church. No one 65 and older is permitted to attend. Please follow the instructions and follow us on Face Book and later on our web page (address above) as we pray for all during this difficult time.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Fourth Sunday of the Fast – St. John of the Ladder – Matins: John 20:1-10; Liturgy: Hebrews 4:14- 5:6; Mark 8:34-91**

**Monday - Genesis 13:12-18; Proverbs 14:27-15:4; Isaiah 37:33-38.**

**Tuesday - Genesis 15:1-15; Proverbs 15:7-19; Isaiah 40:18-31**

**Wednesday - Genesis 17:1-9; Proverbs 15:20-16:9; Isaiah 41:4-14.**

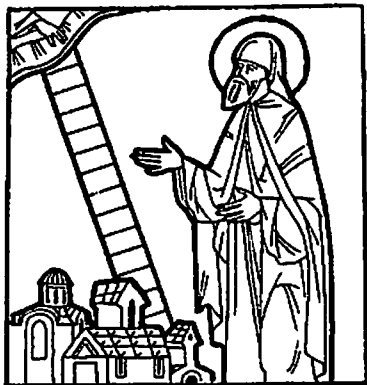
**Thursday - Genesis 18:20-33; Proverbs 16:17-17:17; Isaiah 42:5-16**

**Friday - Genesis 22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17-18:5; Isaiah 45:11-17**

**Akathist Saturday - Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 8:27-31; God-Bearer - Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Fast - Matins John 21:1-14; Liturgy: Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 10:32-45; St. Mary of Egypt: Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 7:36-50.**

## WE CLIMBING THE LADDER OF PERFECTION?



On the 4th Sunday of Lent, the Church always honors the memory of St. John of the Ladder (Climacus) who was born about the year 525 and died in the in the year 606. He was a great teacher of religion. At the age of 16 he climbed up Mt. Sinai to offer himself to God as a living sacrifice. He lived 40 years in the service of god practicing self-mortification, abiding in the desolate wasteness of Sinai, praying, meditating and perfecting a method of sanctification.

He received his name from the well-known book of spiritual exercises which he wrote. The book was called **THE LADDER OF PERFECTION**, and contained 30 chapters for attaining the 30 steps of religious perfection. It was designed as a means for Christians to climb spiritually, as up a ladder, from earth to heaven.

In setting before us the example of such persons as St. John, the Church calls upon us to "Seek first the Kingdom of God" and then all that is necessary for our life will be granted unto us.

The Church, during Holy Lent, expects that we depart from the vanities of this world and seek in silence and contemplation the glory of Christ and eternity. It is so difficult for us to do so in this day of great activity and distraction. There is always the radio, television, automobile and telephone. There are so many claims to our attention and our time.

But Lent **MUST** be different. We **MUST** attempt to follow in the footsteps of the warriors of God.

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### **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**by Kosmas Damianides**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How much it must grieve a father or a mother to see his or her child suffering without reason. To undergo pain and confusion -- for what? Where is God in our plight -- we may often ask ourselves. Where is God in all this pain and confusion?

Today we arrive at the fourth week of Lent. In today's Gospel reading we heard of a father who was on his last hope. His son was possessed by a certain spirit from childhood, which

was causing his son pain and confusion. Not even Jesus' disciples could cure the boy. He brought his son to Jesus, who upon hearing of the father's plight became exceedingly upset at the whole crowd and expressed these strong and direct words "Oh you faithless generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you." The Child was immediately brought close to Jesus and the spirit convulsed him instantly. As we know the child was eventually healed. But at what price one may ask? The father accepted and confessed his unbelief and beseeched God with tears to make his faith complete? This is the price, the fulfillment of our faith --- paid by Christ himself yet we must pray and beseech Him as well.

It is perhaps important to stress here that this miracle account nowhere refers to the spirit by any title such as demon, or devil. It is perhaps because this spirit is in reference to the spirit of this world, the enemy of Christ. It is the spirit of this generation well rooted in society, it is passed on to our children like a virus. Brethren remember these words well --- it is the spirit of this generation which throws our youth about like the child with the spirit we heard earlier today. It smashes them to the ground, it throws them into the fire to be burnt, it throws them into the water to be drowned --- today its drugs, alcohol, gambling, anything to distort the image and likeness of God, within them.

This spirit has a very old history going way back to primordial Man, Adam and Eve. It is firmly established and can not come out by anything --- except, as our Lord instructed Moses, as our Lord instructed his disciples, as our Lord instructs us today, by beseeching God through prayer and fasting.

"Why could we not cast it out", his disciples asked their master in shame. We also must ask why can't we cast this spirit out from our lives and our children's lives?

Brethren, because as our Lord tells us "This kind can come out by nothing except prayer and fasting". This is the key to contrite repentance. this twofold formula which treads on the head of this serpent of old and yields our first step towards heaven --- contrite repentance.

It is no coincidence then that the first and second steps of Saint John's 30 chapter book "THE LADDER - (OF DIVINE ASCENT)" are concerned with the renunciation of this life, this world we live in and detachment from all it's pleasures. We honour Saint John of the Ladder today as a great Saint of our church who reminds us that going to heaven is not as easy as getting into an elevator and pressing a button. On the contrary, it is a long and hazardous climb which is impossible to scale fully unless we beseech God for assistance. May God grant us all fullness of faith, peace and joy on our climb to heaven --- Amen.

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## **PRAYER IN TIME OF CORONAVIRUS**

**O Lord Jesus Christ, in Your loving care, You travelled through towns AND villages “curing every disease and illness.” At Your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience Your healing love.**

**Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair.**

**Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.**

**Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process.**

**Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.**

**O Master and Lord, our Savior, Healer of all,. Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.**

**Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare.**

**For You are a Merciful and Loving God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE UOC OF THE USA  
AND DIASPORA TO ALL CLERGY AND FAITHFUL OF THE CHURCH**

**IMMEDIATE ATTENTION**

22 March, 2020

**TO: ALL CLERGY AND FAITHFUL OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF THE USA AND DIASPORA**

**RE: FULL CLOSING OF ALL PARISH CHURCHES DURING THE  
COVID19/CORONAVIRUS THREAT**

Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in our Lord,

**CHRIST IS AMONGST US!**

**HE IS AND ALWAYS SHALL BE!**

The continued and worsening threat of the COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS continues to affect the lives of each and every one of us. We have asked our clergy since the beginning of this threat to serve Divine Liturgy in their churches with the assistance of a cantor or reader. We have directed that ALL of our faithful 65 years of age and older MUST NOT participate in these Divine Liturgies and we have strongly urged that ALL OUR FAITHFUL REMAIN TO PRAY AT HOME. We have suggested to all our faithful that many parishes are live streaming the Liturgy on Facebook and they should contact their priest or parish board about whether or not their parish is one of these.

Today's statistics – Sunday 22 March – about the people hospitalized with the virus are astonishing. They clearly exhibit that the virus is a threat NOT just to the elderly. 40% of those hospitalized are under the age of 55. 20% of those hospitalized are under age 20! Having spoken with many of our clergy today, we have learned that just too many of the faithful have not taken our directives and urgings to heart and decided to attend Divine Liturgy on this third Sunday of Great Lent. We realize that they – you – did so out of a sincere desire and need to participate in the Divine Liturgy, glorifying God in the Holy Trinity, offering gratitude for the blessings in their lives and beseeching protection from this virus threat for themselves, their families and all mankind. However, because there were simply too many of you present in some of our churches – words we could not have imagined coming forth from our mouths, let alone our hearts prior to these days – we are obliged to direct that all our churches are now closed for

public worship for the duration of this threat to all of us. We make this decision also in consideration of the ever-increasing restrictions being announced daily by federal, state and local government bodies. We are headed into the most dangerous part of the coronavirus threat and we all must be extremely careful.

We do permit our clergy to celebrate Divine Liturgy in their churches – behind closed doors – with at least a cantor or reader to assist them. We ask these clergy to use their own good sense, in particular about their own health and the health of the cantor or reader when making a decision about whether to serve or not. Please Fathers, follow your own conscience in making your decision. Be certain about one thing, however – **NONE OF THE FAITHFUL FROM YOUR PARISH OR FROM ANYWHERE ELSE MAY BE PRESENT IN CHURCH FOR THE LITURGY.** This permission is granted so that the Eucharist and our special prayers may be offered in “behalf of all and for all” our faithful and all mankind.

We understand that the desire to be at Divine Liturgy is to receive the Holy Eucharist – the Blood and Body of our Lord – in Communion from the Holy Chalice as the source of all healing. We learned something else today, however, that has not been expanded upon in the media and it heavily influenced our decision announced here. The fact is that those who have this day been diagnosed with the virus were actually infected last week or the week before. This means that they probably spread the virus to others for a week or two without experiencing any symptoms of the disease. It is what we might be carrying upon ourselves or within ourselves – without our knowledge – that may hurt others by simple proximity. Hence, this letter.

All our faithful can be assured that they will be prayed for during the live streamed Liturgy from St. Andrew Memorial Church each Sunday. The stream on this third Sunday of Great Lent had almost 400 people present for the entire Liturgy and as these words are written, over 13,500 others have viewed or watched the video of the Liturgy in just the four hours after the Liturgy completed and Facebook data tells us that in total 26,000 people were reached by the video. We invite you to join us on the Sundays ahead. As we explained in an earlier letter, dearly beloved, you certainly will not suffer any spiritual penalty during this crisis. Our Lord’s compassion goes far beyond our comprehension and He will certainly embrace us at all times as we pray in our individual homes or as we watch the live streaming of Divine Liturgy on Facebook and YouTube.

Morning Prayers at 7:30 a.m., Evening Prayers at 9:00 p.m. with special prayers for those afflicted with the virus and for our medical professionals are already live



streaming from Three Hierarchs Chapel on St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary's Facebook page. Sunday Divine Liturgy will continue to be live streamed from the Memorial Church at 10:00 a.m. on both the Seminary Facebook page and the Facebook page of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. It also appears that a live stream will also be possible on YouTube. Please go to our Church website – [www.uocofusa.org](http://www.uocofusa.org) – to learn how to connect to both streams and to read any further updates from us throughout this difficult time for all.

We love you all, our dear spiritual children. God has entrusted you all to our spiritual care and we have agonized over all the continually increasing restrictions we have had to issue in that care. We assure you of our endless prayers for each and every one of you – not only during crisis times. We are people of faith and that faith will continue to bring upon us the embrace of our Loving Lord. Pray each day the powerful words: "The Father is my Hope, the Son is my Refuge and the Holy Spirit is my Protection." The Grace inspired into our lives through each of the Mysteries/Sacraments will enable us to remain faithful. Allow that Grace to work within you each moment of your life so that it will flow forth from you into the lives of all around you. Christ IS amongst us – eternally!

In the All-Encompassing Love of our Lord,

**+ ANTONY**  
Metropolitan

**+ DANIEL**  
Archbishop

**+ JEREMIAH**  
Archbishop



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**THE BAZAAR HAS BEEN POSTPONED**

**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - is expressed to the following: Melanie Walsh, 3/29; Michael C. Synczyszyn, 4/1; Katelyn Hamilton, 4/2 & Oleksandr Krynitsky, 4/4. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

**DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON?** – Did you know that if you would get on Smile Amazon and choose our Parish as your beneficiary that Amazon would donate a percentage of your purchase to us? Search on Orthodox Wilmington and choose SS Peter & Paul Ukrainiaan (yes it is misspelled and we've tried to correct it). Try it and help our Parish Family benefit from your shopping experience!

**PYROHY SCHEDULE**

**2020 - Tentative**

Friday, May 15

**MEETINGS – MINISTRIES**

**PARISH BOARD MEETING** – Tuesday, April 7 @ 6:30 PM. (Teleconference)

**Tentative 2020 Schedule**

Sunday, April 12 – Palm Sunday – Holy Week -

Sunday, April 19 – PASKHA

Sunday, April 26 – St. Thomas Sunday – Cemeteries

Sunday, May 10 – Mother's Day

Sunday, June 21 – Father's Day

Sunday, July 12 – Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul – Parish Appreciation Day

Saturday, August 1 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, November 7 – Fall Bazaar

Tuesday, November 24 – Community Thanksgiving Service (Ascension Episcopal)

Sunday, December 13 – St. Nicholas (Sts. Peter and Paul) UOL Cookie Sale

**DONATIONS FOR FLOWERS FOR PASCHA**

We shall be taking donations to help pay for the flowers that we ordered to decorate the Tomb for Good Friday and the Church for Pascha. You can donate in memory of a loved one or for the health of a loved one(s). If you are interested, please send your check made out to Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, C/O Linda Hnatow, 1406 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, DE 19809. Thank you!

## **THE POWER OF PRAYER – Today, we begin Day 20.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL –** Metropolitan Antony, Archimandrite Raphael, Father Vasili Andrejuk, Father Paul Bigelow, Father John Bohush, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Nestor Kowal, Father Mark Leisure, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Victor Wronskij, Father Volodymyr Wronskij, Pani Dobrodyka Lisa Weremedic, Mykola, Brennan, Deborah, Charles, Galina, Dolores, Julian, Madison, Michele, Mykola, Rita, Ryan, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, Thomas Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, George Burns, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Betty Charney, Mildred (Myrophora) Christo, Erik Colazo, Patricia Crystal, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Peter DiVirgilio, John Dmytryk, James Dudrick, David Duncan, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, James Garrett, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Rick Hastings, Celeste Heiser, Dolores Helms, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Anthony Hnatow, Daniel Holoviak, Caroline Humphrey, Richard Humphrey, Sally Hutnick, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Rosalie Ann Kane, Sandra Kasch, Thomas Kasprzak, Charles Kaszytski, Julia Kaszytski, Diane Keyser, Barbara Kirylic, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Emma Krasnopera, Volodymyr Krasnopera, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Paul Markow, Frederick McCarthy, Ronald Michel, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Michael Moroz, Linda Muldoon, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Ryan Pinkowicz, Valentina Plachuta, Maria Plumpton, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Lynn Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Alla Rudawsky, John Ruczhak, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Maria Russak, Anthony Saldutti, Dana Sargent, Doris Scully, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Wasyl Szeremeta, Tatiana Szewc, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Anna Tur, Richard Twardus, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Peter Weremedic, Stephen Wienkowitz, Laura Worley, & James Zook.

## THE GARDEN BECAME A BATTLEGROUND

**G**ETHSEMANE! The very word brings an awesome image into our minds. The icon on today's bulletin captures the vivid account of Christ in the Garden. Let us recount the biblical record of this event.

It was after the Mystical Supper that the Lord took His apostles to the place which He often frequented to pray. Now Jesus came there to prepare Himself to die. He took three of the Apostles, Peter, James and John, further into the garden. These were the three who saw Him once transfigured in all His glory; now they were to see Him suffer and weep.

Christ bid His friends to *"watch and pray,"* while He went on, falling to His knees and pouring out His heart and soul in agonized prayer. Sweat, like beads of blood, form on His brow as He contemplates the suffering to follow. Finally, Jesus prays: *"Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Let not My will but Thine be done!"* And the Father sent an Angel to strengthen Him for the agony to come.

There Jesus lies, exhausted, and we begin to realize what a price He had to pay for our salvation. As for the apostles, they were tired and asleep, unable to cope with the situation. The words of the Lord ring out: *"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak . . ."*

What a picture we see of our Lord! His agony would end in complete submission to the will of the Heavenly Father. It is not to be interpreted as an act of weakness, but the fulfillment of a higher purpose. Jesus **CHOSE** to go to the crucifixion on Golgotha, in order to save mankind.

*The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.*