

GREAT LENT: A SPIRITUAL RACE

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; 2nd Youth Ministry

April 11, 2021
Volume 57: Number 15
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of April 11 - 18, 2021
Celebrating our 94th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, April 11 – 4th Sunday of the Fast – St. John of the Ladder - Tone 3

8:30 – 9:00 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Panakhyda: +Inna Kaliakin (1 Yr. An.) – Kaliakin Family

Panakhyda: +Anna Hutnick (16 Yr) – Hutnick Family

Coffee Hour –

12:00 PM – Lenten Vespers

Monday, April 12

7:00 AM – Matins

Tuesday, April 13

6:30 PM Parish Board Zoom Meeting

Thursday, April 15

10:00 AM – Akathist Passion – Memorial Service (Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD)

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy (St. Nicholas - Dover, DE)

Friday, April 16

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, April 17

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD)

Sunday, April 18 – 5th Sunday of the Fast – St. Mary of Egypt - Tone 4

8:30 – 9:00 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

12:30 PM – Lenten Vespers

SCRIPTURE READINGS

4th Sunday of the Fast: Matins: John 21:15-25; Liturgy: Hebrews 6:13-20; Mark 9:17-31; St. John of the Ladder: Ephesians 5:9-19; Matthew 4:25-5:12.

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.

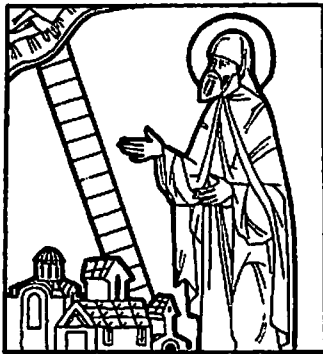
Thursday - Genesis 18:20-33; Proverbs 16:17-17:17; Isaiah 42:5-16

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

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

5th Sunday of the Fast - Matins Matthew 28:16-20; Liturgy: Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 10:32-45; St. Mary of Egypt: Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 7:36-50.

ARE 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.

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Suffering and glory are intertwined in Mark's Gospel. Jesus has just warned his disciples that he will lead them to the Cross; now, in a moment of glory on the mountaintop, he reveals the victory on the other side of that cross. Moses and Elijah appear with him to confirm that this Jesus is indeed the culmination of God's plan, the one toward whom both the law and the prophets had pointed.

Even after witnessing the Transfiguration, the three disciples do not fully understand what Jesus says to them or even how to respond to what they have seen (verses 6 and 10). Returning to the other disciples and the crowd that has gathered around them, Jesus meets even more evidence of unbelief and misunderstanding. The disciples have proved unable to exorcise a possessed boy. They are apparently confused and frustrated, the scribes have seized the opportunity to start another argument, and the poor man who brought his son for healing is ready to give up.

If Jesus had waited to be born until all humanity, or even his chosen disciples, were able to reach perfect understanding and faith in him, the world would still be awaiting its Savior. But as the conclusion of the story makes clear, Jesus is not bound by our imperfect response. "I do believe," cries the father, "Help my lack of belief." That is enough for Jesus.

For reflection: Is my faith weak or uncertain at times? Have I experienced moments of total assurance and confidence in God followed by intense doubts and questioning? How does today's reading speak to me?

Prayer starter: Lord, I wish I could always stay on the "mountaintops" where I experience your presence and feel spiritually on fire. But I need you most in my valleys of doubt and unbelief. Be with me there.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

How often as children we said, "I promise," only to have the other person say, "Cross your heart." The exchange continued, "I cross my heart and hope to die!" In retrospect this is certainly a frightful thing to say, considering the ease with which promises are made and then broken — not only by children, but by adults as well.

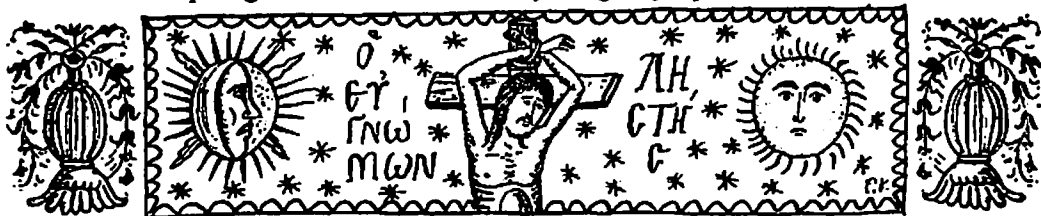
In this regard, consider for a moment the promises made at marriage: a solemn oath before God and the believing community. Yet time and again that promise is gone back on, not merely by formal divorce, but more insidiously by the divorce of minds, hearts and bodies,

while the married partners continue to live together in quiet desperation. Broken promises lead to broken lives.

How heartening then when today's epistle speaks of a promise that is certain and sure; a promise that will not — indeed cannot— be gone back on; a promise that is eternal and everlasting. So sure and safe is this promise of God, that the author of Hebrews urges us to anchor our very souls on this pledge given to us by God in Jesus Christ. Not only is the promise made to us in and through Jesus, but Jesus Himself is that pledge and promise. In Him we see that God's pledge has been maintained and the Father's promise has been fulfilled, for the Eternal Word is alive in our midst! Our Father has kept His word and now His Word is keeping us safe unto eternity. For the Divine Word, Jesus Christ, has gone before us, tearing asunder the veil that once separated us from our Father.

How filled with faith must the expression "Cross your heart" have been when it was first used. It is saying, "Put Christ's Cross on your heart to prove your promise, just as the Fourth Sunday of Lent Christ Himself on the Cross made real all the promises of His Father!" That is why in the Liturgical Hours during Lent, the Great Fast, we can pray, "Your Cross has become the scale, the balance beam, of righteousness . . . On the Cross You stretched out Your arms in an embrace for all the world . . . Christ-God, You nailed Adam's sin to the Cross . . ." Yes, with the nailing of Adam's sin to the Cross, the primal curse has been undone and the Eternal Promise has been gloriously made manifest before all the world.

The reading from the Gospel presents to us a beginning of this undoing of the ancient curse. For in the Gospel story we see the healing power of God breaking through to bind up a broken life. We see the wondrous grace of our Father filling another father's heart with faith and trust. We see the Son of God defeating the power of evil in the life of another son of God. But before soothing health returns, before divine grace works, before Satan is routed, Jesus asks, "Do you trust [My Father's promise]?" The anguished father, for the sake of his son, cries out to the Father through His Son, "Oh, yes, I trust; yes, I believe. Help me to believe even more!" Then Jesus, the Father's promise-made-real, keeps His Father's pledge to us and raises the young boy up to a life of health and sanity



ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to the following: Andrea Fenstermacher, 4/11; Patricia Crystal, 4/12 & Luba Szeremeta, 4/17. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of April 12 – Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of April 19 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of April 26 - Mark & Laura Andreas

Week of May 3 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of May 10 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

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!

ELECTRONIC DONATIONS (CREDIT CARDS) ACCEPTED – for those who are interested, we can accept donations to the Church through credit cards. See Michael Tilson or Lorraine Neff for details.

MUGS OF CHRISTIAN LOVE – For every \$50 donation, you will receive a beautiful, specially designed coffee/soup mug. This mug will identify you as a donor, and a supporter of the ministerial efforts of the Church. Please help us help the Orphans, the Elderly and the Disabled. We invite you to be part of our common charity service – to share the blessings of your life with others. Help us fulfill Christ's commandment to love and assist those in need, and thereby serve the Lord Himself.

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

April 11 - David and Eve Lazaration

April 18 - Nancy Tur, Zina Twardus

April 25 - John and Sandy Cramer

May 2 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik & Alexander Smith

GOOD FRIDAY – PASKA SIGN UP SHEET – Will soon be in the back of the Church. We shall have a few extra hours to fill since I shall be celebrating Paska with Holy Trinity Parish in Whaleyville, MD on Holy Saturday at 4:00 PM. Please make plans to give up an hour to be at the Tomb of Our Lord!!

MEETINGS

PARISH BOARD MEETING – Tues., April 13 @ 6:30 PM (Zoom)

SOUPS FOR THE FAST

Our UOL is once again sponsoring a quart of soup of the week during the Fast. All soups are Lenten and a \$10.00 donation per quart is requested. The menu is:

Sunday, April 11 – Jean Roeth – Bean and Kale Soup

Sunday, April 18 – Laura Andreas – Mediterranean Lentil

READER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

April 11 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

April 18 - Linda Hnatow

April 25 - Jean Roeth

May 2 - John Plachuta

May 9 - Andrew Duncan

FLOWERS FOR PASKHA – Our Chairperson, Linda Hnatow has reminded us that it is once again time to make our contributions for flowers for Paskha. The forms will be in the Church Hall. We are asking a \$20 donation for all flowers. If you have donated to this fund, on St. Thomas Sunday (May 9th – Mother’s Day) you will be reminded after Liturgy to take a flower home with you if you would like. All flowers left after that day will be planted around the Church. Thank you for your support.

TRUSTEES MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)

April 11 – Victor Kaliakin and Lorraine Neff

April 18 – Thomas Bringle and Linda Hnatow

April 25 – Thomas Bringle and Linda Hnatow

May 2 – Ann Duncan and Victor Kaliakin

May 9 – Ann Duncan and Victor Kaliakin

May 16 – Lorraine Neff and Thomas Bringle

RULES FOR ATTENDING ALL SERVICES: *

Masks **MUST** be worn during the service – if you do not have one, a mask will be provided. * **PLEASE:** if you have a fever of over 100°, or have any symptoms: **PLEASE STAY HOME!!** Contact information will be taken at every service so that if someone who attends develops the virus, all attendees will be notified and then would quarantine themselves for 14 days. We shall continue to stream all services until the pandemic is over. **HOLY COMMUNION – YOU CANNOT GET DISEASE FROM HOLY COMMUNION!!!** This is the Body and Blood of Christ. The Communion Cloth is not to be touched. **PLEASE – listen to the instructions.** * After the Liturgy, each person **MUST** sanitize the area in which he/she is using. * **AFTER HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE DIVINE SERVICES AND YOU BECOME SYMPTOMATIC – YOU MUST NOTIFY FATHER STEPHEN AT ONCE SO THAT ALL WHO PARTICIPATED COULD QUARENTINE THEMSELVES!!** * If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to **CALL ME (302) 798-4455.** I will be happy to assist you in any way that I can.

PASKA ORDER FORM – ORDER BY APRIL 18

_____ Small Round (\$7) _____ Large Round (\$10) _____ Butter Lamb (\$3)

Name _____

**Please give to Father Stephen or Kathy Duncan with payment
Paskas will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, April 25**

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- Saturday, May 8 – Visitation of the Cemeteries
- Sunday, May 9 – Mother’s Day Dinner
- Sunday, June 20 – Pentecost – Father’s Day Dinner – Graduate Sunday
- Monday, June 28 – Apostle’s Fast Begins
- Sunday, July 18 – Metropolitan Antony Blessing of the Patron’s Path
- Saturday, August 7 – UOL Flea Market
- Saturday, November 6 – Fall Bazaar

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Lazarus Saturday/Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 24

Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Blessing of Palms and Pussy Willows

Sts. Peter and Paul

Palm Sunday – April 25

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

Blessing of Palms and Pussy Willows

Holy and Great Monday – April 26

Sts. Peter and Paul

7:00 AM – Matins

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Holy and Great Tuesday – April 27

Sts. Peter and Paul

7:00 AM – Matins

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Holy and Great Wednesday – April 28

Sts. Peter and Paul

7:00 AM – Matins

8:00 AM – Presanctified Liturgy

St. Nicholas – Dover, DE

2:00 PM – Anointing of the Sick

Sts. Peter and Paul

7:00 PM – Anointing of the Sick

Holy and Great Thursday – April 29

7:00 AM – Matins

7:30 AM – Vespers/Liturgy of St. Basil

6:00 PM – 12 Gospels

Holy and Great Friday – April 30

Saints Peter and Paul

8:00 AM – Royal Hours

Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD

1:00 PM – Vespers/Shroud

St. Nicholas – Dover, DE

4:00 PM – Vespers/Shroud

Sts. Peter and Paul

7:00 PM – Vespers/Shroud

9:00 PM – Jerusalem Matins

Holy & Great Saturday – May 1

Saints Peter and Paul

8:00 AM – Vesper/Liturgy St. Basil

Holy Trinity - Whaleyville

4:00 PM – Resurrection Matins

Divine Liturgy – Bless Baskets

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archimandrite Raphael, Father Vasili Andrejuk, Father Paul Bigelow, Father John Bohush, Father Vasyi Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Victor Wronskyj, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Pani Matka Oksana Bazylevsky, Pani Matka Linda Oryhon, Pani Dobrodyka Lisa Weremedic, Alicia, Nerry, Mykola, Brennan, Deborah, Galina, Dolores, Julian, Madison, Michele, Mykola, Rita, Ryan, Randy Allen, Paul Andreas, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Maria Borowenski Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, Thomas Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, 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, Mary Eagleton, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, James Garrett, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovniou, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Rick Hastings, Celeste Heiser, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Anthony Hnatow, Michael 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, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, 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, Victor Melnychenko, 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, Ivan Otamas, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Janylyn Pinkowicz, Ryan Pinkowicz, Valentina Plachuta, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, John Ruczhak, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Anthony Saldutti, Isaac Schmidt, Doris Scully, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Kimberly Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Mariel Trimble, Anna Tur, Richard Twardus, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Michael Wardigo, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Peter Weremedic, Stephen Wienkowitz, Laura Worley, & James Zook.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE PREPARES A CHRISTIAN

Numerous times in the Bible, our Christian Life is compared to a **RACE**. Each year we run another leg of the journey; each year brings us closer to our goal of the Lord's Kingdom. All "runners" long to win but what do we actually need to do to accomplish this?

Since our goal is salvation, we need **DISCIPLINE**. Just think of the astronauts that have "The Right Stuff." They are chosen carefully and go through rigorous training, all to become disciplined. Likewise, believers must be disciplined. This should be evident in our devotional life and in everything we think, say and do. Physically and morally, we need to achieve self control. Strive to be temperate in all things. Ultimately, we must be guided by the Holy Spirit and not by the flesh.

We also need **DIRECTION**. In Philippians 3:13-14, we are instructed to "forget things that are behind." Leave your past behind, forgetting old wrongs. We cannot win by looking back. "Reach forth" to seize opportunities to serve Christ. Stretch forward with anticipation, eagerly welcoming all the spiritual challenges that await us. We should "keep pressing toward the goal." Make the best use of your time and talent in service to the glory of God. Live life with eternal rewards in mind.

We do want to be dressed correctly for this race. Lay aside your earthly cares. Extra weight will only slow you down. Be willing to lose the unnecessary weights that may be hindering your progress. Remember that it will all be worth it, when we finally reside with our Saviour.