

**SAINT  
SIMEON  
THE  
STYLITE**



**F**rom atop  
his pillar, He  
worked great  
miracles, healing  
the sick by his  
prayers & words



## **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

**September 18, 2022**  
**Volume 58: Number 38**  
**Schedule of Services and Activities**  
**Week of September 18 - 25, 2022**  
**Celebrating our 95<sup>th</sup> year of Service to the Lord**

**Sunday, September 18 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Tone 5**

**8:30 AM - Confessions**

**9:15 AM – Hours**

**9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful**

**Coffee Hour**

**Monday, September 19**

**6:30 PM – Akathist for Our Youth**

**7:00 PM – Bible Study**

**Tuesday, September 20**

**6:00 PM – Great Vespers**

**Panakhida: +Father Vincent Saverino (4 Yr. An.)**

**Wednesday, September 21 – Nativity of the Mother of God**

**8:00 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful**

**Thursday, September 22**

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

**7:00 PM – Boy Scouts**

**Saturday, September 24**

**10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Assumption, Northampton, PA – 101 Anniversary)**

**Sunday, September 25 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross - Tone 6**

**8:30 AM - Confessions**

**9:15 AM – Hours**

**9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful**

**Coffee Hour**

## SCRIPTURAL READINGS

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Matins: Mark 16:9-20; Liturgy: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4; Matthew 22:1-14

Monday – Galatians 2:11-16; Mark 5: 24-34

Tuesday – Galatians 2:21-3:7; Mark 6:1-7; Vespers for the Feast: Genesis 28:10-17; Ezekiel 43:27-44:1-4; Proverbs 9:1-11.

Wednesday – Nativity of Mother of God – Matins: Luke 1:39-49, 56; Liturgy: Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28; Day: Galatians 3:15-22; Mark 6:7-13

Thursday – Galatians 3:23-4:5; Mark 6:30-45

Friday – Galatians 4:8-21; Mark 6:45-53

Saturday before the Cross – 1 Corinthians 2:6-9; Matthew 10:37-11:1; Day: 1 Corinthians 4:17-5:5; Matthew 24:1-13

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday before the Cross – Matins: Luke 24:1-12; 2; Liturgy: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Matthew 22:35-46; Sunday before the Cross: Galatians 6:11-18; John 3:13-17

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## THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



The first great Feast to fall in the Church Year is the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God. It is entirely fitting that at the beginning of the new *religious* year all Orthodox Christians should come before the highest example of human holiness that the Orthodox Church holds precious and venerates - that of Mary, the Theotokos (God-bearer) and Mother of God. This day is seen as one of universal joy; for on this day - the boundary of the Old and New Covenants - was born the Most-Blessed Virgin, deigned from the ages by Divine Providence to serve the mystical Incarnation of God the Word.

The first Old Testament Reading of Vespers (Genesis 28:10-17) speaks of the dream of Jacob, one of the Old Testament Patriarchs, when he fled the wrath of his brother Esau. He saw a ladder extending from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending. When he awoke, Jacob blessed with oil the stone on which he had slept and called it Bethel, meaning *house of God*. The Most-Pure Mother of God is seen here as that ladder between heaven and earth, uniting earth with heaven in her womb. She who carried God in her womb is truly *Bethel*, none other than the house of God...and the gate of heaven (Genesis 28:17).

The birth of the Most Holy Birth-giver of God took place in the following manner: Her father, the Righteous Joachim, was a descendant of King David, to whom He had promised that from the seed of his descendants would be born the Savior of the world. Her mother, the Righteous Anna, was the daughter of Matthan, and through her father was of the tribe of Aaron and through her mother was of the tribe of Judah. The spouses lived in Nazareth of Galilee.

Joachim and Anna had no children, and all their life they grieved about this, especially since they were now in old age. Scorn and mockery was their lot, for at that time childlessness was reckoned as a shame. But they never murmured and only the more fervently beseeched God, humbly trusting in His will.

Once, during the time of a great Feast, the offering which Joachim took to Jerusalem to offer to God in the Temple, was not received by the priest, who reckoned that a childless man was not worthy to bring sacrifice to God. This greatly grieved the old man and he, counting himself only a sinner among men, decided not to return home, but to flee to a place of solitude in a deserted place.

Anna, having heard how her husband had been humiliated by the priest, began to fast, and in prayer sadly beseeched God to grant her a child. In the wilderness, secluded and fasting, Joachim also prayed to God about this.

The prayers of the Holy Spouses were heard. The angel Gabriel came to them and announced that a daughter would be born to them, whom the whole human race would call blessed. At the command of the Heavenly Messenger, Joachim and Anna returned to Jerusalem where, according to the promise of God, a daughter was born to them whom they named Mary.

This child, the Most-Holy Virgin Mary, pure and virtuous, surpassed not only all men, but even the angels, being manifested as the Living Temple, "the Heavenly Gate, ushering in Christ to the Universe as the Salvation of our souls." The Nativity of the Mother of God pre-announced the approaching time when the great and comforting promise of God concerning the salvation of the human race from the slavery to the devil was to be accomplished. The Mother of the First-Born of all Creation was revealed to all of us as a merciful Intercessor to whom we perpetually run for help in all things.

**TROPAR** - Tone 4: Your birth, O Virgin Mother of God \* heralded joy to the universe \* for from you rose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God. \* He took away the curse; He gave the blessing \* and by trampling death \* He gave us everlasting life.

**KONDAK - Tone 4:** By your Nativity, O Most-Pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: The barren woman gives birth to the Birth-Giver of God, the Nourisher of our Life.

### **LIGHT A CANDLE**

In all Orthodox Churches we see many lights and candles burning. Lights are always used during all of the divine services, even though it is held in full sunlight. This is done not only for illumination or to make the services more beautiful and solemn but also to show that the Lord, who dwells in light which is indescribable, illuminates the world with spiritual radiance. The candles signify that the hearts of the faithful believers are warmed by a flame of love toward God and His Saints and that the Church has triumphed in giving spiritual joy.

Candles, which are to be used during the year, are by tradition usually blessed on the Holy Day of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple (February 2/15). These candles are not only lit in the Church before the icons but they are also given to the sponsors to hold during Holy Baptism, to the mother to hold at the Churching or presenting of her child to God 40 days after his/her birth, to the couple who are being married and put into the hand of the person who is lying in the casket. Lighted candles are also held by everyone present at the Mystery of Holy Unction, and in the Church when Panakhyda (Prayer for the Deceased) is celebrated for a loved one.

Beeswax and olive oil, as the purest substances free from animal matter, are used for lighting before sacred things. Artificial light - electricity - is permitted, but only for general illumination. The beeswax and olive oil are symbolic of the purity and sincerity of the gifts.

In the early church lights were used greatly. Oil lamps were lighted when candles were unknown. The lights reminded the faithful of Christ's words: "I am the Light of the world." Those who believed in Him were considered Children of the Light. The candle that we now light in front of the Icon and hold on various occasions is a symbol that we want our soul to be as pure as light and our heart to burn with the flame of the love to God. Saint Seraphim of Sarov said: "Let our heart glow with love and our life shine with light before our Lord like the flame of a taper before His Icon."

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## PRAYER AND THE FAMILY

Prayer is a mysterious power. It is the main nourishment of faith and a companion to the believer. It can't be otherwise, since it is man reaching out to the infinite God, the Creator of all things. It is man talking with God.

Many of us have the idea that the only time we pray to God is when we have failed miserably, or when we need strength greater than our own, or when doors have been shut to us, or when answers don't come, or when there seems to be no way out. Then we pray!

But this is not the norm. We must learn to pray continually. Our Lord said: "Will not God then do justice to His chosen who calls out to Him day and night?" (Luke 18:7). So rather than praying only when things go wrong, His praise should always be on our lips; at times of leisure or work; happiness or sorrow; alone or with others; at home or in Church.

The Apostles devoted themselves to constant prayer (Acts 1:14), but unfortunately today, we have set up boundaries where and when we pray. An area in which prayer is being forgotten is the home. How often have you heard that old axiom: "A family that prays together, stays together!" And perhaps rightly so, it is through prayer that each member of the family comes into a close appreciation for God and each other.

Perhaps the first thing we need is to **DESIRE** to pray as a family. Isn't it amazing that the Fathers of our Church have always looked at each family as a "Little Church"? This is why the Icon corners, the family offering prayer and incense together, the family singing our beautiful Church hymns and Akathists together in the home was so important. It is through our individual spirituality, and our family spirituality that we can come together as a spiritual Church, as the Body of Christ, to offer God worship and praise. Without a foundation for prayer in our individual and family lives, we cannot expect to come to Church every Sunday and all of a sudden just pray. It is then that we shall see all the distractions in the world: "Someone's clothes didn't match, someone is singing off key, the priest's sermon wasn't good in the first place but it also didn't say anything to me, that person's child is screaming and I cannot concentrate."

Perhaps we need to get back to the basics. How you might ask? Perhaps we need to start with a few prayers from our Church that our family can say together during the day. One of our most beautiful morning prayers thanks God for the new day, for new strength and for hope. We may pray: "As I rise from sleep, I thank You, O Holy Trinity, for through Your great goodness and patience You were not angry with me, an idler and sinner, nor have You destroyed me in my sins, but have shown Your usual love for mankind; and when i was prostrate in despair, You have raised me up to keep the morning watch and

glorify Your power. And now enlighten my mind's eye and open my mouth that I may meditate on Your words; understand Your commandments; do Your will; sing to You in heartfelt confession and sing praises to Your all-holy name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen." (Midnight Service of the Orthodox Church)

Perhaps we can pray before and after every meal with our prayers of blessing and thanksgiving:

"O Christ our God, bless the food and drink of Your servants, for You are Holy now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen."

"We thank You, O Christ our God, that You have satisfied us with Your earthly gifts. Do not deprive us of Your heavenly Kingdom, but as You entered into the midst of Your disciples, O Savior, and gave them peace, enter also among us and save us. Amen."

At night, we can pray this beautiful prayer taken from Small Compline:

"O Lord our God, as You are good and the Lover of Mankind, forgive me all my sins which I have committed today in word, deed or thought. Grant me peaceful and undisturbed sleep; send Your guardian Angel to protect and keep me from all evil. For You are the Guardian of our souls and bodies, and unto You do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen."

Remember to say the prayer for our parish Community every day. Use the Psalms as daily prayers and meditations. The hardest part of any journey is beginning. The beginning of any journey lies in the first step. Let us begin to take our prayer life seriously. Let us take our family prayer life just as seriously. Then we will notice a difference when our "Little Churches" come together to form our big Church during our regular Divine Services. Then we will notice a more prayerful attitude in our Church and our Community. Then will our Parish Community be rewarded with peace and prosperity for being the faithful, prayerful servants of the Lord.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OUR PRAYERS AND CONGRATULATIONS** – are expressed to our Boy Scout Troop #70 – "The Peacemakers" on their celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary yesterday. May God continue to bless their leaders and members and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!



**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - is expressed to Ana Victoria Beaudan, 9/18; Victoria Muntyanu, 9/21 & Richard Bringle, 9/22. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

**UOL RETREAT** – is scheduled for Saturday, October 1 beginning with a continental breakfast and registration at 9AM. Very Rev. Robert Holet, our Dean, will be giving the retreat on the topic: **“Stewardship: It’s More Than Show Me the Money”** talking about the Spirituality of Stewardship and its meaning in the life of Orthodox Christians. Donation will be \$20 which will include a Continental Breakfast, Lunch and snacks. Our UOL invites all to attend.

## **MEETINGS**

**PARISH BOARD** – Wednesday, October 18@ 6:30 PM

**UOL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** – Speaking of our UOL, it is time to renew your membership or start a membership. They are always willing to work for the Church. One of their many charitable works is to take care of our Parish Library. Dues are \$20 per member (please see Treasurer Nancy Hlywiak. Please join and help support our UOL.

**SCHEDULING FOR THE PARISH** – Please remember that all events, work parties, use of the hall must be cleared through the calendar kept by Father Stephen so that dueling events may not occur.

### **READER MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

September 18 - Linda Hnatow  
September 25 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick  
October 2 - Jean Roeth  
October 9 – John Plachuta  
October 16 - Andrew Duncan

### **GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

September 18 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik  
September 25 - David and Eve Lazaration  
October 2 – Zina Twardus  
October 9 - John and Sandy Cramer

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

## **CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

Week of September 19 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of September 26 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of October 3 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of October 10 - Mark & Laura Andreas

Week of October 11 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of October 18 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

**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!

## **MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

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

September 18 – Victor Kaliakin and Lorraine Neff

September 25 – Ann Duncan and Linda Hnatow

October 2 – Ann Duncan and Linda Hnatow

October 8 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

October 15 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

October 22 – Lorraine Neff and Ann Duncan

## **TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS**

October 1 – UOL Retreat (See Announcement)

October 12 – 15 – UOC Sobor

Saturday, October 22 - Boy Scout Car Wash – Silverside and Foulk Roads 9AM – 2PM

Saturday, November 5 – Fall Bazaar

Tuesday, November 22 – Community Thanksgiving Service (Sts. Peter & Paul)

Sunday, December 18 – UOL Cookie Sale

**PATRON'S PATH** – We will be taking orders for replacement bricks that will be engraved and placed in the Path. Just as before, each brick can have the clip art of a three bar Cross or it can be plain. The donation for the bricks is: 4" x 8" engraved brick is \$150 – with the clip art \$175; 8" x 8" engraved brick is \$200 - with the clip art \$225; 12"x 12" engraved brick is \$250 – with the clip art \$275. If you didn't get the chance to be a part of the Patron's Path before, take the opportunity now and tell your family members as well. Please see Father Stephen if you would like to place an order. Orders will be taken until September 25.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL** – Metropolitan Antony, Archimandrite Raphael, Father Vasili Andrejuk, Father George Bazylevsky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Mark Odell, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Alicia, Nerry, Mykola, Brennan, Deborah, Galina, Dolores, Julian, Madison, Maria, Matt, Michele, Mykola, Penelope, Rita, Ryan, Randy Allen, 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, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Margaret Durell, Mary Eagleton, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Archantula Fanjoy, Pam Ferguson, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovniou, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Celeste Heiser, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, Michael Hnatow, Daniel Holoviak, Jennifer Huertes, Caroline Humphrey, Richard Humphrey, Sally Hutnick, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Elizabeth Kaliakin, Rosalie Ann Kane, Michael Kapelus, Sandra Kasch, Charles Kaszytski, Julia Kaszytski, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Volodymyr Krasnopera, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, Beth McKirachan, Fred McKirachan, Victor Melnychenko, Ronald Michel, Mary Ann Michalcewicz, Michelle Michalcewiz, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Linda Muldoon, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Lorraine Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Janylyn Pinkowicz, Ryan Pinkowicz, Valentina Plachuta, Daphne Pantelopulos, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, John Ruczhak, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Isaac Schmidt, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Kimberly Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Natalia Stanford, 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, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Peter Weremedic, Stephen Wienkowitz, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook.

❖ ❖ ❖ A SOLITARY LIFE ❖ ❖ ❖

**W**hen we read the accounts of the lives of the saints, we are amazed to see the extent to which pious men and women devoted their days to serving the Lord. **ST. SIMEON THE STYLITE** is one such example of someone who lived his life in dedicated service to Christ, sacrificing everything for his Saviour. He was born in Syria in the late 4th century. From his youth, Simeon showed signs of having received a special calling from God. At the age of 18, he entered a monastery, where he adhered to the strictest of ascetic disciplines and practices. It was quite common for him to embark upon lengthy periods of private prayer and severe fasts.

While still a young man, St. Simeon developed a new form of monasticism. He became the first of the "pillar ascetics" known as "stylites." In an effort to live as secluded a life as possible, Simeon went into the desert outside of Antioch and constructed a 60 foot high pillar, upon which a small platform rested. Here he lived as a stylite for 40 years! His was an existence of ultimate self-denial. Simeon was so determined to remain alone with His Creator that he even refused to see his own mother, gently telling her: "Do not disturb me now Mother. If we are worthy, we will meet in the next world."

Despite his desire for solitude, Simeon's reputation spread throughout Syria and its surrounding regions. People from all walks of life made pilgrimages to the pillar of St. Simeon, seeking his prayers and wise counsel. Many miracles were worked by this devout saint.

St. Simeon the Stylite died in 459 A.D. at the age of 70. The ruins of his beloved pillar can still be seen in the Syrian desert where this great ascetic and wonderworker spent his life.