



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 14, 2024
Volume 60: Number 15
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of April 14 - 21, 2024
Celebrating our 97th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, April 14 – 4th Sunday of the Fast –Tone 4

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

There will be no Vespers today as we have the Annual Meeting in Dover today.

4:00 PM – Holy Trinity OCA, 1236 Juniper Street, Pottstown, PA

Wednesday, April 17

7:00 AM – Matins

6:00 PM – Matins for Thursday – Canon of ST. Andrew

Thursday, April 18

10:00 AM – Akathist to the Passion (Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD)

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

Friday, April 19

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Sunday, April 21 – 5th Sunday of the Fast – Tone 5

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Panakhida: +Lorraine Neff (40 Days)

Coffee Hour

12:00 Noon – Lenten Vespers

4:00 PM – St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church (506 Stahr Rd., Elkins Park, PA)

SCRIPTURAL READINGS

4th Sunday of the Fast: Matins: John 20:11-18 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 13:12-28; Proverbs 14:27-15:4; Isaiah 37:33-38:6

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 John 20:11-18; 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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to . May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy & blessed years!

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, donation per flower is \$15. Please fill out a form and give them to Linda Hnatow. Thanks.

EASTER EGG HUNT – will take place for our youth on Sunday, April 28th after the Divine Liturgy. Please register with either Pani Elizabeth or Olena Smith. Thanks.

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 can be avoided.

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

MEETINGS

PARISH BOARD – Tuesday, April 9 @ 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY – PASKA SIGN UP SHEET – Will soon be in the back of the Church.
Please make plans to give up an hour to be at the Tomb of Our Lord!!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

April 14 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

April 21 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

April 28 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

May 5 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

May 12 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew ANDreas

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of April 15 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of April 22 – John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of April 29 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi

Week of May 6 - Nancy Hlwiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of May 13 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of May 20 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of May 27 - Mark & Laura Andreas

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS

Friday, May 3 – Good and Holy Friday

Sunday, May 5 – Pascha

Saturday, May 11 – Visit Cemeteries

Sunday, May 12 – Mother's Day Dinner

Saturday, June 8 – Hall Rented

Saturday, June 29 – Wine Tasting Event 5PM – 8PM

Sunday, June 16 – Father's Day Dinner

Monday, July 1 – Apostles' Fast

Sunday, July 14 – Patronal Dinner

Saturday, July 20 – Hall Rented

Saturday, August 3 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, November 2 – Fall Bazaar

Tuesday, November 26 – Community Thanksgiving Service – Atonement Methodist

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

April 14 – John Plachuta

April 21 - Andrew Duncan

April 28 - Thomas Sulpizi

May 5 - Jean Roeth

May 12 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

May 19 - Linda Hnatow

PASKA ORDER FORM – ORDER BY APRIL 21

_____ Small Round (\$8) _____ Large Round (\$12) _____ Butter Lamb (\$5)

Name _____

() With Raisins

() Without Raisins

**Please give to Father Stephen or Kathy Duncan with payment
Paskas will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, April 28**



REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevsky, Father Vasyly Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Gerald Ozlanski, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Father Michael Zaparyniuk, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Pani Matka Oksanna Bazylevsky, Pain Matka Marianne Ozlanski, Matka Annette Zaparyniuk, , Alicia, Nerry, Mykola, Brennan, Henry, Deborah, Galina, Dolores, Julian, Madison, Maria, Marie, Matt, Michele, Mykola, Penelope, Rita, Ryan, Jonathan Angelo, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Joyce Bendoakas, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Irene Billon, James Bolton, Maria Borowenski, Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, Thomas Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Kathy Chalfont, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Michael Dalaski, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Paula Daubert, William Dewhurst, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Margaret Durell, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Mary Eagleton, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Archantula Fanjoy, Mary Farrell, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, Daniel Holoviak, Jennifer Huertes, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Volodymyr Krasnopera, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Ron Lazaration, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, Beth McKirachan, Fred McKirachan, Stephen McNulty, Ronald Michel, Mary Ann Michalcewicz, Michelle Michalcewiz, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry, Bernice & Ryan Pinkowicz, Daphne Pantelopulos, George Pantelopulos, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, David Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, John Serth, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Alexandra Sparco, Natalia Stanford, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Michael Synczyszyn, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Michael Tilson, 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, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook.

OUR HOLY WEEK AND PASKA SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 28 – Palm Sunday

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour – Easter Egg Hunt

5:00 PM – Lenten Vespers

Holy and Great Monday – April 29

Sts. Peter and Paul

7:00 AM – Matins

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Holy and Great Tuesday – April 30

Sts. Peter and Paul

7:00 AM – Matins

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Holy and Great Wednesday – May 1

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 – May 2

7:00 AM – Matins

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

6:00 PM – 12 Gospels

Holy and Great Friday – May 3

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 4

Saints Peter and Paul

8:00 AM – Vesper/Liturgy St. Basil

Holy Trinity - Whaleyville

4:00 PM – Service at the Tomb -
Resurrection Matins Liturgy

Bless Baskets

Sts. Peter and Paul

11:00 PM – Service at the Tomb

Resurrection Matins

Sunday, May 5

Resurrection of Our Lord

12 Midnite – Divine Liturgy

Bless Baskets – Coffee Hour

St. Nicholas

8:00 AM – Resurrection Matins

Divine Liturgy – Bless Baskets

Saints Peter and Paul

10:00 AM Pro Liturgy – Communion

Agape Vespers

Bless Baskets – Coffee Hour

“ASCEND THE LADDER OF THE VIRTUES”

On the 4th Sunday of Lent, we annually commemorate a 7th century monastic saint: ST. JOHN CLIMACUS. He is best remembered today for his spiritual writing entitled the “Ladder of Divine Ascent.” In this marvelous work, he compares the quest for spiritual perfection with climbing a 30-step ladder, with each rung corresponding to a year in the life of Christ that was hidden from the world. Even today, many Orthodox monasteries will begin the season of Great Lent with a public reading of Climacus’ book.

While the “Ladder of Divine Ascent” was written primarily for those living a monastic life, it offers wonderful spiritual advice from which we can all benefit. Listen to some of John’s profound comments in his spiritual work:

“In a meek heart, the Lord will find rest.”

“Humility is a divine shelter to prevent us from seeing our achievements.”

“Those who wish to learn the will of God must first suppress their own will.”

“Run from places of sin as from the plague, for when fruit is not present, we have no frequent desire to eat it.

“Let your prayers be completely simple. Remember that both the Publican and the Prodigal Son were reconciled with God by praying only one phrase.”