



Saint  
**SPYRIDON**

## **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

**December 25, 2022**  
**Volume 58: Number 52**  
**Schedule of Services and Activities**  
**Week of December 25, 2022 – January 1, 2023**  
**Celebrating our 95<sup>th</sup> year of Service to the Lord**

Sunday, December 25 – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday of the Holy Forefathers -  
Tone 1

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Panakhyda: +Alex Berbick (9 Yrs) – M/M Neil and Joyce (Berbick) Belles  
Coffee Hour

Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

**SCRIPTURAL READINGS**

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday of the Holy Forefathers – Matins: Luke 24:36-53;  
Liturgy: Colossians 3:4-11; Luke 14:16-24

Monday – Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19; Mark 8:11-21

Tuesday – Hebrews 4:1-13; Mark 8:22-26

Wednesday – Hebrews 5:11-6:8; Mark 8:30-34

Thursday – Hebrews 7:1-6; Mark 9:10-16

Friday – Hebrews 7:18-25; Mark 9:33-41

Saturday before the Nativity – Galatians 3:8-12; Luke 13:18-29; Day: Ephesians 2:11-13;  
Luke 14:1-11

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Sunday before the Nativity – Matins: John 20:1-10; Liturgy:  
Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40; Matthew 1:1-25

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**FATHER STEPHEN IS ON VACATION** – from December 25 until Tuesday, January  
2. In case of an emergency, please call Father Gerald Ozlanski at (302) 798-7935.

## A LOVE STORY

One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me. He asked me, "Do you love Me?" I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Savior!"

Then He asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love Me?" I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I would not be able to do, the things that I took for granted.

And I answered, "It would be tough, Lord, but I would still love You."

Then the Lord said, "If you were blind, would you still love My creation?" How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love You."

The Lord then asked me, "If you were deaf would you still listen to My Word?" How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to Your Word."

The Lord then asked me, "If you were mute, would you still praise My Name?" How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me: God wants us to sing from our very heart and soul. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song, but when we are persecuted, we give praise with our words of thanks. So I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your Name."

And the Lord asked, "Do you really love Me?" With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes, Lord! I love You because You are the One and true God!"

I thought that I had answered well, but God asked, "THEN WHY DO YOU SIN?" I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect."

"THEN WHY IN TIMES OF PEACE DO YOU STRAY THE FURTHEST? WHY ONLY IN TIMES OF TROUBLE DO YOU PRAY THE EARNEST?" No answers. Only tears.

The Lord continues, "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek Me only in times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly? Why ask things so unfaithfully?" The tears continued to roll down my cheeks.

"Why are you ashamed of Me? Why are you not spreading the Good News? Why in times of persecution do you cry to others when I offer My shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in My name?" I tried to answer, but there was no answer to give.

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed My Word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you but your ears were closed. I have shown my blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have sent you servants, but you sat idly by as they were pushed away. I have heard your prayers and answered them all. DO YOU TRULY LOVE ME?"

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When my heart had cried out and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be Your child."

The Lord answered, "This is My grace, My child." I asked, "Then why do You continue to forgive me? Why do You love me so?"

The Lord answered, "Because you are My creation. You are My child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you till the end of days, and I will love you forever."

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked, "How much do You love me?"

The Lord stretched out His arms and I saw His nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ my Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed.

**Author Unknown**

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## **Teaching the Children Symbols of Christmas**

**Let us teach the children** that a star was a heavenly sign of promise long ages ago. God promised a Savior for the world and a sign of the fulfillment of that promise was the great Star of the East. A star now reminds us of God's love for mankind and of the fulfillment of His promise. The countless shining stars at night can also remind us of the burning hope of all mankind.

**Let us teach the children** that the candle may also be used as a symbol for that star of long ago. Its small light is the mirror of starlight; once candles were placed on the Christmas Tree and they were like many glowing stars shining against the dark green. We may also place candles in our windows to show that we open our homes and our hearts to strangers, as we would have wished to welcome Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child long ago. While safety has removed many candles, we use other lights now in the same way for remembrance,

**Let us teach the children** that the pure color of the stately evergreen tree remains the same all year round. We use this symbol for the everlasting hope of mankind. Green is the hopeful, abundant color of nature. The great, green tree has also been one of man's best friends. It has sheltered him, warmed him, and made beauty for him. Made into the Cross, it held the Savior of the world when He was lifted up for us.

**Let us teach the children** that the wreath of evergreens symbolizes the eternal nature of love: it never ceases, stops or ends. It is one continuous round of affection. The wreath does double duty. It can be made of many things and in many colors. It can remind us of Christmas in many different ways.

**Let us teach the children** to place a bow on a wreath or a present as a reminder of the spirit of the unity of mankind. The bow is tied as men should be tied, all of us together, with the bonds of love and good will toward each other. "Peace on earth, good will towards men," is the message of the bow.

**Let us teach the children** that the bell is for salvation. As lost sheep were found by sounds of the bell, so should it ring for men to return to the fold. A bell means guidance and return; it reminds us that all are precious in the eyes of the Lord.

**Let us teach the children** that the candy cane represents several symbols of the birth, ministry and death of Jesus. The white symbolizing the Virgin birth and the sinless nature of Jesus and it is hard to symbolize that Jesus is the solid rock, the

foundation of His Church. The "J" represents the precious name of Jesus, who came to the earth as our Savior. It also represents the shepherd's crook. The crook or the staff helps bring back the strayed sheep to the fold and therefore reminds us of the staff of the Good Shepherd. The red stripes represent the blood shed by Jesus on the Cross so that we can have eternal life. The candy cane represents the helping hand we should show at Christmastime. The candy is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper.

**Let us teach the children that St. Nicholas is the very best symbol of Christmas.** He is the sign of the gift of life and of love. Let us think of St. Nicholas and how he has made right so many things that were wrong. Down the centuries he teaches that the best things in life are to give and to help, to love and to serve.

**Let us ourselves ponder, rejoice and wonder as we see these symbols, and then we will hardly need words as we teach the children.**

**(Thanks to Mother Raphaela and the community of the Holy Myrrh-bearers in Otego, NY for sharing this reflection with us!)**

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### PREPARATION FOR THE NATIVITY



All-important events are celebrated with due preparation in accordance with their importance. This is especially true for the major feasts of the liturgical year. We will get out of events in proportion to what we place in them.

The Nativity of our Lord comes but once a year but its meaning as well as its lessons must remain in our hearts and minds every day of every year. Preparation, therefore, is important. As an incentive, we should reflect on how dreary and dismal our world and our lives would be without Christmas.

What would life be without Christ? How would we be able to cope with life and its problems? How could we control our weak human nature without His assistance? Have we ever thought how much cheaper life would be had not Christ come upon the earth? Even though human dignity and value had deteriorated in our society, it would be dramatically worse without the saving teachings of our Lord. His words



and Gospel as the "Light of the World" has dispelled the darkness of ignorance, superstition, injustice, despair, hatred, etc.

Today we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers - or the Holy Ancestors of Christ. We celebrate all those who were related to Christ in any way - including the Patriarchs of the Old Testament. Before the Law there were Adam, Enoch, Melchisedech, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons, the founders of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. After the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David; the four major prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezechial and Daniel; also the Three Holy Youths; the twelve minor Prophets; also Elijah, Elisha, Zacharias, John the Baptist and Mary, the Mother of the Lord.

Christ did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them by perfecting the work of all those who preceded Him and announced His coming: all those who inspired hope in the salvation to come and in the establishment through the Blood of the Savior of the new covenant between God and man, the covenant of love, of life in God and its consummation in the bosom of the Father in heaven.

The present commemoration is a preparation for the birth of Christ, the purpose of which is to create in the faithful's heart an atmosphere of expectation, hope and anxious eagerness for the coming of Christ.

Let us take the final two weeks of the Fast seriously. Let us attend the extra services. Let us go to confession and the Eucharist regularly. Let us prepare ourselves for the Coming of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - is expressed to Daphne Pantelopulos, 12/25; Patricia Redden, 12/28 & Julia Kaszytski, 12/31. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

**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.

**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!



## **MEETINGS**

**PARISH BOARD** – Wednesday, January 11 @ 6:30 PM

## **READER MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

December 25 - Jean Roeth  
2023 January 1 – John Plachuta  
January 8 - Andrew Duncan  
January 15 - Linda Hnatow  
January 22 - Thomas Sulpizi  
January 29 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

## **GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

December 25 - Zina Twardus, Nancy Tur  
January 1 - John and Sandy Cramer  
January 8 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik  
January 15 - David and Eve Lazaration

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

Week of December 26 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly  
**2023** - Week of January 2 - Mark & Laura Andreas  
Week of January 9 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration  
Week of January 16 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson  
Week of January 23 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus  
Week of January 30 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration  
Week of February 6 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

## **TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS**

**2023** Friday, January 6 – Holy Supper 6:00 PM  
Saturday, January 7 – Nativity of Our Lord  
Saturday, January 28 – Wine Tasting 6:00 PM  
Sunday, February 5 – ANNUAL MEETING  
Monday, February 27 – First Day of the Fast  
Saturday, April 1 – Spring Bazaar  
Sunday, April 16 – Paskha  
Sunday, April 23 – St. Thomas Sunday – Cemetery Visitations  
Sunday, May 14 – Mother’s Day Dinner  
Sunday, June 18 – Father’s Day Dinner  
Sunday, July 16 – Patronal Feastfay  
Saturday, August 5 – UOL Flea Market

**UOL COOKIE SALE** – Special thanks to all of our bakers and to our packers and our customers. Because of your generosity, a profit of was realized. May God reward your kindness a hundredfold!

**WINE TASTING** – Our Parish is sponsoring a wine tasting and pairing on Saturday, January 28 beginning at 6:00 PM. The wine will be paired with four courses of food: appetizers, a chicken, beef and pork, and seafood dishes, desserts. The donation will be \$35 per person, \$60 per couple. Please see Linda Hnatow or Father Stephen for advanced reservations.

**HOLY SUPPER** – will be scheduled for Christmas Eve, January 6 at 6:00 PM. If you would like to attend please sign in at the dessert table.

### **MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

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

December 25 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

January 1 – Lorraine Neff and Ann Duncan

January 8 – Lorraine Neff and Ann Duncan

January 15 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

January 22 - Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

January 29 – Victor Kaliakin and Lorraine Neff

### **PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPRING BAZAAR – MAKING PYROHY**

Saturday, January 21

Saturday, February 4

Saturday, February 25

Saturday, March 11

**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.

**NATIVITY FAST SOUP SALE** – Our UOL will be making vegan soups for the Nativity Fast beginning today for \$10 a quart. Money raised will be for the UOL Thanksgiving project and will be sent for humanitarian aide in Ukraine.

**FLOWERS FOR THE NATIVITY** – Donations for the Nativity Flowers are being accepted by Linda Hnatow. They can be for the Health of or in Memory of Family members and friends. Donation requested is \$15.

**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 Laura O dell, 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, Irene Billon, Maria Borowski Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, Thomas Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Mildred (Myrophora) Christo, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Margaret Durell, Mary Eagleton, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Archantula Fanjoy, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Celeste Heiser, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, John Hnatow, Michael Hnatow, Daniel Holoviak, Jennifer Huertes, Sally Hutnick, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Rosalie Ann Kane, Michael Kapelus, Charles Kaszytski, Julia Kaszytski, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Volodymyr Krasnopera, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Genevieve Luchejko, 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, 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, Alexandra Sparco, 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 SHEPHERD OF A CHRISTIAN FLOCK ❖ ❖

**T**he First Ecumenical Council of the Christian Church was summoned by the Emperor Constantine in the year 326 to deal with problems of the Early Church. Oh, how the roads to the city of Nicea must have looked! They were filled with some 318 leaders of the Faith. It was a sight to behold. Some of the Bishops rode on fine horses, while others trailed slowly on foot; some were garbed with robes while others had threadbare cloaks; some were vigorous and healthy, while others bore on their bodies the scars of persecution and suffering.

Among the most unusual and remarkable of Bishops was **ST. SPYRIDON**, the hierarch from the island of Cyprus. He had been a shepherd before becoming a Bishop, and he remained one after, including the shepherding of his Christian flock. He concerned himself with the education and Christian nurture of young and old, and the Church grew under his wise leadership. St. Spyridon also distinguished himself in the awe inspiring company of the Council, where he forcefully defended the Faith and helped reconcile differences in the group.

Called a **WONDER-WORKER**, St. Spyridon suffered during the persecutions to the Church in the fourth century. He was arrested and taken to a prison, beaten there so fiercely that he lost an eye. Then the Romans consigned him to hard labor in the mines. There he suffered for years, and at last fell asleep in the Lord, firm in his faith in Christ. His tomb is on the island of Corfu, his body preserved even after sixteen centuries, and is still carried in solemn procession on his feastday as crowds gather to honor him.