



Ὁ
ἅγιος
Διονύσιος

Ὁ ἕν ἁγιῶν

Δ
Ι
Ο
Ν
Υ
Σ
Ι
Ο
Σ

Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

1406 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, DE 19809
www.sspeterandpauluoc.org
www.orthodoxdelaware.net



Father Stephen Hutnick
(302) 798-4455
E-mail: otche@aol.com

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

December 27, 2020
Volume 56: Number 51
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of December 20 - 27, 2020 – January 3, 2021
Celebrating our 93rd year of Service to the Lord

**ALL SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED
ON FACEBOOK & WEBPAGE**

Sunday, December 27 – 29th Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday of the Holy Forfeathers –
Tone 4
8:30 – 9:00 AM - Confessions
9:15 AM – Hours
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour

Saturday, January 2
10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Holy Trinity, Whaleyville, MD)

Sunday, January 3 – Sunday of the Holy Fathers – Tone 5
8:30 – 9:00 AM - Confessions
9:15 AM – Hours
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour

SCRIPTURE READINGS

29th Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday of the Holy Forefathers - Matins Gospel: John.
20:1-10; Liturgy: Colossians 3:4-11; Luke 14:16-24
Monday - Hebrews 8:7-13; Mark 8:11-21
Tuesday – Hebrews 9:8-10,15-23; Mark 8:22-26
Wednesday – Hebrews 10:1-18; Mark 8:30-34
Thursday – Hebrews 10:35-11:7; Mark 9:10-16
Friday – Hebrews 11:8, 11-16; Mark 9:33-41
Saturday before Nativity – Galatians 3:8-12; Luke 13:18-29, Day: Ephesians 5:1-8; Luke
14:1-11
Sunday before the Holy Fathers – Sunday before the Nativity – Matins: John 20:11-18;
Liturgy: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40; Matthew 1:1-25

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

SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS OF CHRIST

False Security (Luke 14:15-24)

When Jesus mentioned "the resurrection of the just," one of the guests became excited and said, "Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" The Jewish people pictured their future kingdom as a great feast with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the prophets as the honored guests (Luke 13:28; see Isa. 25:6). This anonymous guest was confident that he would one day be at the "kingdom feast" with them! Jesus responded by telling him a parable that revealed the sad consequences of false confidence.

In Jesus' day when you invited guests to a dinner, you told them the day but not the exact hour of the meal. A host had to know how many guests were coming so he could butcher the right amount of animals and prepare sufficient food. Just before the feast was to begin, the host sent his servants to each of the guests to tell them the banquet was ready and they should come (see Es. 5:8; 6:14). In other words, each of the guests in this parable had already agreed to attend the banquet. The host expected them to be there. But instead of eagerly coming to the feast, all of the guests insulted the host by refusing to attend, and they all gave very feeble excuses to defend their change in plans.

The first guest begged off because he had to "go and see" a piece of real estate he had purchased. In the East, the purchasing of property is often a long and complicated process, and the man would have had many opportunities to examine the land he was buying. Anybody who purchases land that he has never examined is certainly taking a chance. Since most banquets were held in the evening, the man had little daylight left even for a cursory investigation.

The second man had also made a purchase—ten oxen that he was anxious to prove. Again, who would purchase that many animals without first testing them? Not many customers in our modern world would buy a used car that they had not taken out for a "test drive." Furthermore, how could this man really put these oxen to the test when it was so late in the day? His statement "I go to prove them!" suggests that he was already on his way to the farm when the servant came with the final call to the dinner.

The third guest really had no excuse at all. Since they involved so much elaborate preparation, Jewish weddings were never surprises, so this man knew well in advance that he was taking a wife. That being the case, he should not have agreed to attend the feast in the first place. Since only Jewish men were invited to banquets, the host did not expect the wife to come anyway. Having a new wife could have kept the man from the battlefield (Deut. 24:5) but not from the festive board.

Of course, these were only excuses. I think it was Billy Sunday who defined an excuse as "the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie." The person who is good at excuses is usually not good at anything else. These three guests actually expected to get another invitation in the future, but that invitation never came.

Having prepared a great dinner for many guests, the host did not want all that food to go to waste, so he sent his servant out to gather a crowd and bring them to the banquet hall. What kind of men would be found in the streets and lanes of the city or in the highways and hedges? The outcasts, the loiterers, the homeless, the undesirable, the kind of people that Jesus came to save (Luke 15:1-2;19:10). There might even be some Gentiles in the crowd!

These men may have had only one reason for refusing the kind invitation: they were unprepared to attend such a fine dinner. So, the servant constrained them to accept (see 2 Cor. 5:20). They had no excuses. The poor could not afford to buy oxen; the blind could not go to examine real estate; and the poor, maimed, lame, and blind were usually not given in marriage. This crowd would be hungry and lonely and only too happy to accept an invitation to a free banquet.

Not only did the host get other people to take the places assigned to the invited guests, but he also shut the door so that the excuse-makers could not change their minds and come in (see Luke 13:22-30). In fact, the host was angry. We rarely think of God expressing judicial anger against those who reject His gracious invitations, but verses like Isaiah 55:6 and Proverbs 1:24-33 give a solemn warning that we not treat His calls lightly.

This parable had a special message for the proud Jewish people who were so sure they would "eat bread in the kingdom of God." Within a few short years, the Gospel would be rejected by the official religious leaders, and the message would go out to the Samaritans (Acts 8) and then to the Gentiles (Acts 10;13ff).

But the message of this parable applies to all lost sinners today. God still says, "All things are now ready. Come!" Nothing more need be done for the salvation of your soul, for

Jesus Christ finished the work of redemption when He died for you on the cross and arose from the dead. The feast has been spread, the invitation is free, and you are invited to come.

People today make the same mistake that the people in the parable made: they delay in responding to the invitation because they settle for second best. There is certainly nothing wrong with owning a farm, examining purchases, or spending an evening with your wife. But if these good things keep you from enjoying the best things, then they become bad things. The excuse-makers were actually successful people in the eyes of their friends, but they were failures in the eyes of Jesus Christ.

The Christian life is a feast, not a funeral, and all are invited to come. Each of us as believers must herald abroad the message, "Come, for all things are now ready!" God wants to see His house filled, and "yet there is room." He wants us to go home (Mark 5:19), go into the streets and lanes (Luke 14:21), go into the highways and hedges (Luke 14:23), and go into all the world (Mark 16:15) with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to the following: Patricia Redden, 12/28; Julia Kaszytski, 12/31; Wasyl Bernhard, 1/1 & Maria Borowenski, 1/1. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

MEETINGS

PARISH BOARD MEETING – Tues., January 8 @6:30 PM (Zoom & In-Person Meeting)

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.

READER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 27 - Andrew Duncan
January 3 - Linda Hnatow
January 10 - Jean Roeth
January 17 - John Plachuta
January 24 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of December 28 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of January 4 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of January 11 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of January 18 - Mark & Laura Andreas

Week of January 25 – John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of February 1 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

PYROHY SCHEDULE

ORDERS TAKEN

January 11& 12

February 15 & 16

March 8 & 9

PICK UP

Friday, January 22

Friday, February 26

Friday, March 26

In order to fill the orders, we will be making pyrohy on the following dates: Wednesday, December 16; Saturday, January 16; Friday, February 19; Friday, March 12

RULES FOR ATTENDING ALL SERVICES: *

Masks **MUST** be worn during the service – if you do not have one, a mask will be provided. * **PLEASE:** It is crucial for the safety and health of all participants that if you have a fever of over 100°, or have any symptoms **PLEASE STAY HOME!!** For everyone's safety, 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** – It is imperative that you understand that **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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

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 Ukrainian (yes it is misspelled and we've tried to correct it). Try it and help our Parish Family benefit from your shopping experience!

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

January 3 - John and Sandy Cramer

January 10 - David & Eve Lazaration

January 17 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik & Alexander Smith

January 24 - Nancy Tur, Zina Twardus

“PATRONS PATH”: A Tribute to the Faithful Founders, Families, Stewards and Supporters of this Holy Temple and All Who Worship Here. - For nearly 93 years, our Parish has served as a spiritual home for generations of Ukrainians, Ukrainian-Americans and Orthodox Christians from around the world. Many of you may have been baptized, married, attended liturgy or simply enjoyed the Bazaars and monthly pyrohy sales, **THANK YOU** for being part of what makes Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church a unique family gathering place. You now have the opportunity to leave a lasting imprint on our beloved church home. Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church has created, **PATRONS PATH**, a lasting remembrance to all who have generously built, supported and sustained our little Parish in Wilmington, Delaware over the years. This tribute will be placed in front of the Holodomor Memorial and surrounding area to be admired and added to for generations. The funds generated from the sale of pavers will be used to offset operational and capital improvement costs. These pavers may be imprinted with special messages, dates, names or combination of such. A special presentation may be seen on our Facebook page (SS. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church) and Website (www.sspeterandpauluoc.org). Please look at the website for the Patron's Path: <http://polarengraving.com/saintspeterandpaulukrainianorthodoxchurch> It is our hope that you join us and be part of this new foundation on which to build for ages to come.

TRUSTEES MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

December 27 – Lorraine Neff and Thomas Bringle

2021 – January 3 – Lorraine Neff and Thomas Bringle

January 10 – Linda Hnatow and Ann Duncan

January 17 – Linda Hnatow and Ann Duncan

January 24 – Victor Kaliakin and Lorraine Neff

January 31 - Victor Kaliakin and Lorraine Neff

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan
Antony, Archimandrite Raphael, Father Vasili Andrejuk, Father Paul Bigelow, Father John Bohush, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Mark Leisure, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Victor Wronskyj, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Pani Dobrodyka Lisa Weremedic, Alicia, Nerry, Mykola, Brennan, Deborah, Charles, 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 Borowski 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, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, James Garrett, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Rick Hastings, Celeste Heiser, 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, 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, Ryan Pinkowicz, Valentina Plachuta, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne 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, 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, Tatiana Szwec, 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.

A BELOVED HIERARCH OF THE CHURCH

The cry of "AXIOS - WORTHY!" is proclaimed at the consecration of a Bishop to the service of God and Church. It is so today and has been for centuries. Worthy indeed was the monastic named Daniel who became a Hierarchy of the Church in the sixteenth century, and who assumed the name DIONYSIUS at that time.

He was born in 1546 on the island of Zakynthos in Greece and raised in the bosom of the Church from infancy. His parents saw to his fine education and he responded by developing a keen intellect and a proficiency in several languages. He had also learned of the emptiness of the world with its materialism and so entered a monastery after the death of his dear parents.

He had his heart set on visiting the Holy Land and praying at the sacred sites associated with the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is said that he went to Athens to book passage, but instead the Christian leaders spoke to him of the vacant episcopal see at the island of Aegina. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he agreed and was consecrated Bishop and assumed the ranking post in the Church of Aegina. He became Archbishop of the Church and was instrumental in developing great spirituality among the faithful. Indeed, pilgrims from surrounding areas came to seek his blessing and to listen to his instruction. He later returned for a time to the monastery and fell asleep in Christ in the 75th year of his life. His body is at the Church of Dionysius on Zakynthos and has been preserved intact over the centuries.