



HOLY MARTYR BARLAAM

A recipient of the greatest honor

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

December 6, 2020
Volume 56: Number 48
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of December 6 - 13, 2020
Celebrating our 93rd year of Service to the Lord

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

Sunday, December 6 - 26th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 1

8:30 – 9:00 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

Tuesday, December 8

6:30 PM – Parish Board (Zoom and in Person)

Wednesday, December 9

8:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Thursday, December 10

7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

8:00 AM – Peeling potatoes

Friday, December 11

7:00 AM – Making pyrohy

Saturday, December 12

9:00 – 9:30 AM – Dropping off cookies

10:00 AM – Putting the cookie trays together

Sunday, December 13 - 27th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 2

8:30 – 9:00 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour – UOL Cookie Sale

SCRIPTURE READINGS

26th Sunday after Pentecost - Matins: Luke 24:1-12; Liturgy: Ephesians 5:8-19; Luke 12:16-21

Monday – 1 Timothy 5:1-10; Luke 17:20-25

Tuesday – 1 Timothy 5:11-21; Luke 17:26-37

Wednesday – 1 Timothy 5:22-6:11; Luke 18:15-17,26-30

Thursday – 1 Timothy 6:17-21; Luke 18:31-34

Friday – 2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18; Luke 19:12-28

Saturday – Galatians 5:22-6:2; Luke 10:19-21

27th Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Apostle Andrew – Matins: Luke 24:12-35; Ephesians 6:10-17; Luke 13:10-17; Apostle Andrew – 1 Corinthians 4:9-16; John 1:35-51

26th Sunday After Pentecost

Saint Basil the Great

The land of a rich man produced abundant harvests, and he thought to himself: "What am I to do? I will pull down my barns, and build larger one."

Now why did that land bear so well, when it belonged to a man who would make no good use of its fertility? It was to show more clearly the forbearance of God, whose kindness extends even to such people as this. He sends rain on both the just and the unjust, and makes the sun rise on the wicked and good alike.

But what do we find in this man? A bitter disposition, hatred of other people, unwillingness to give. This is the return he made to his Benefactor. He forgot that we all share the same nature; he felt no obligation to distribute his surplus to the needy. His barns were full to bursting point, but still his miserly heart was not satisfied. Year by year he increased his wealth, always adding new crops to the old. The result was a hopeless impasse: greed would not permit him to part with anything he possessed, and yet because he had so much there was no place to store his latest harvest. And so he was incapable of making a decision and could find no escape from his anxiety. What am I to do?

Who would not pity a man so oppressed? His land yields him no profit but only sighs; it brings him no rich returns but only cares and distress and a terrible helplessness. He laments in the same way as the poor do. Is not his cry like that of one hard pressed by poverty? What am I to do? How can I find food and clothing?

You who have wealth, recognize who has given you the gifts you have received. Consider yourself, who you are, what has been committed to your charge, from whom you have received it, why you have been preferred to most other people. You are the servant of the

good God, a steward on behalf of your fellow servants. Do not imagine that everything has been provided for your own stomach. Take decisions regarding your property as though it belonged to another. Possession give you pleasure for a short time, but then they will slip through your fingers and be going, and you will be required to give an exact account of them.

What am I to do? It would have been so easy to say: "I will feed the hungry, I will open my barns and call in the poor. I will imitate Joseph in proclaiming my good will toward everyone. I will issue the generous invitation: "let anyone who lacks bread come to me. You shall share, each according to need, in the good things God has given me, just as though you were drawing from a common well'."

(Homilies on Riches, Courtonne, pages 15-19)

Episcopal Reflections: +Bishop Nicholas of Johnstown

ON BEING FOCUSED!

Today we hear much about being "focused" or being "centered." When we read articles in newspapers or magazines or when we view stories about different people on television, we hear much talk about the importance of directing our attention or our lives toward a specific goal. Maybe it came from all of those sports interviews we see broadcast on television. There we see a sweaty, breathless football player, standing in the locker room with a towel around his neck and a microphone forced in his face. He then proceeds to tell us how he dropped the ball because he did not focus enough on the quarterback. He then goes on to say how all of his thoughts and actions must be centered on the game, for if not, the game becomes a splintered series of mishap after mishap.

Although this example has to do with our favorite pastime, football, we see the same scenario repeated time after time in sport after sport. This seems to have become so common and so attractive, that we have come to apply these terms to many aspects of our lives. Today it is a common practice to speak of being centered in any project we may undertake. We tell our children to focus on the homework they have to do and let nothing distract them. It is even common to refer to our entire life as one that must be centered. We are warned of the danger in coming involved in too many activities and becoming fragmented; we must center our lives so we do not become overwhelmed.

Actually, this may be very good advice. For in a world that not only expects much from us, but also demands much from us, it is a constant danger to lose sight of ourselves and our

needs. When we become controlled by all of the activities placed on us, we tend to be out of control, out of focus, and allow life to control us. We fail to recognize the larger meaning life has for us, and are lost in the uncentered details of merely reacting to the events presented before us.

This is the issue which Christ addresses in the 26th Sunday's Gospel reading. In this reading from the Gospel of Saint Luke, Christ tells the story of a man who planned to tear down his old barns, build new ones, and eat drink and be merry the rest of his life. Christ then condemns the man, for he asks, "This night your soul will be required of you, then whose will those things be which you have provided?" Christ does not call the man a fool or condemn his acts because he did well in life, rather, he questions the reason the man acquired all his wealth. Christ realized, and pointed out to His disciples, that this man was centered only on himself and his own pleasure. Christ does not begrudge the man what his hard work and good fortune had brought him; Christ presents the story to show that this man was focused only upon himself.

The focus of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is "God-centered." Throughout the Gospel, and throughout the entire Bible for that matter, we find our attention being directed away from selfish needs and centered on God. The entire story of Israel is one where the attractions of the world and of the life of others became more important than their life with God. They lost focus of their meaning as a nation, a peoples, who had a very special covenant with God. The Pharisees, who were the religious leaders of the people of Israel, had focused their attention on the law rather than on God. Keeping the law became the center of their attention, not what God wanted or what their brothers and sisters needed. Christ continues this admonition through teaching and example, telling and showing His disciples and the people, what it means to be God-Centered.

So it is in this Gospel passage, Christ condemns the man not for what he achieved, but for being centered only on himself. In the same chapter Christ goes on to tell His disciples that they should not be anxious about what they should eat or what they should drink; yes, these things are important, but they should not over-shadow their need for God. This Gospel tells us there is nothing wrong with keeping ourselves centered, of providing for ourselves and our families. But, it also warns that above all our focus should be "God-centered, it is at these times that we discover ourselves as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME – is expressed to Father Anthony and Pani Elaine Ugolnik for being with us this morning. May God continue to bless and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

Please Note: Father Stephen is on vacation from November 30 – December 7. In case of an emergency, please call Father Gus Christo at (302) 479-5672 or Father Gerald Ozlanski at (302) 798-7935. There will be Liturgy on Dec. 4th

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to the following: Alyssa Pappas, 12/7 & Jean H. Roeth, 12/9. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

SPECIAL THANKS – are offered to Alex and Michelle Czernik for their donation of the beautiful dark set of vestments that were blessed last Sunday. May God grant them many, happy and blessed years!

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS FOR THE CONSISTORY! - We are very pleased to announce a unique and special opportunity for the youth of our church. His Eminence Archbishop Daniel invites all youth to create and submit handmade ornaments for a special Christmas tree at the Consistory Offices. Ornaments should be handmade by the youth themselves and appropriate for display in the rotunda of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. His Eminence will PERSONALLY hang the ornaments on the tree in thanks to our youth for their contributions. All ornaments should be sent directly to His Eminence Archbishop Daniel by DECEMBER 18, 2020 Sent to: Vladyka Daniel, PO Box 495, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880

CHRISTMAS AT THE SEMINARY – ON LINE ONLY – Saturday, December 19 beginning at 5:00 PM. Support the Seminary by purchasing the items below and shipping them directly to the Seminary by December 16th. **Wish List:** Gifts Cards (Amazon, Costco, Home Depot, Restaurant Depot, Shop Rite, Target: [Target registry: [tgt.gifts/SaintSophiaSeminary](https://www.target.com/registry/tgt.gifts/SaintSophiaSeminary)] Visa, Walmart); **Cleaning Products:** floor cleaner, bathroom cleaner, multipurpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, disinfecting spray & wipes, wood polish and cleaner, Swiffer duster refills, dishwasher detergent, dishwashing liquid, kitchen sponges. **Laundry Products:** HE laundry detergent and/or pods, Clorox. **Household Products:** paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, garbage bags – all sizes, Ziploc bags, hand soap. **Office Products:** dry erase markers, batteries, staples, tape, multi-subject spiral bound notebooks. More info, call (732)356-0090 – email: fr.v.pasakas@uocusa.net, Mail gifts to: St. Sophia Seminary, 1950 Easton Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873.

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.

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!

READER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 6 - Jean Roeth
December 13 - John Plachuta
December 20 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick
December 27 - Andrew Duncan
January 3 - Linda Hnatow

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of December 14 - Mark & Laura Andreas
Week of December 21 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
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

PYROHY SCHEDULE

ORDERS TAKEN

November 30 & December 1
January 11 & 12
February 15 & 16
March 8 & 9

PICK UP

Friday, December 18
Friday, January 22
Friday, February 26
Friday, March 26

In order to fill the orders, we will be making pyrohy on the following dates:

Friday, December 11
Saturday, January 16
Friday, February 19
Friday, March 12

UOL CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE – will take place on Sunday, December 13 after Liturgy. **IT WILL BE BY ORDER ONLY.** Please understand the following: **Sonya Patronik** will be coordinating the Bakers. **We need your help.** We need all of our bakers to make at least 60 cookies of a kind. (Please, no chocolate chip). Cookies will be dropped off at the Parish Hall between 9:00 – 9:30 AM on Saturday, December 12. **Linda Hnatow** will be coordinating the orders. The donation is \$13 for one pound and \$25 for a two pound box. You know how delicious they are. Tell your friends.

TRUSTEES MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

November 29 – Thomas Bringle and Linda Hnatow

December 6 – Thomas Bringle and Linda Hnatow

December 13 – Ann Duncan and Victor Kaliakin

December 20 – Ann Duncan and Victor Kaliakin

December 27 – Lorraine Neff and Thomas Bringle

2021 – January 3 – Lorraine Neff and Thomas Bringle

January 10 – Linda Hnatow and Ann Duncan

“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.

MEETINGS

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

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 13 - David & Eve Lazaration

December 20 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik & Alexander Smith

December 27 - Nancy Tur, Zina Twardus

January 3 - John and Sandy Cramer

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.



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 Borowenski 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, 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 Szvec, 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, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Peter Weremedic, Stephen Wienkowitz, Laura Worley, & James Zook.

THE FIRMNESS OF HIS FAITH REMAINS UNTOUCHED

Neither scholar nor cleric, nor missionary or statesman, but simply an untutored man of low station in life; this describes the man who became known as MARTYR BARLAAM. The highest honor that our Church can bestow on a person was obtained by him around his 90th year!

Hailing from Antioch, Barlaam lived during the fourth century. Throughout his long life, Barlaam fondly embraced our Lord and all that He represented. As with a magnet, his love for the Savior drew him closer and closer to God. Barlaam's pure heart endeared him to his fellow Christians.

As an aged man, he was swept up during a wave of persecution. Unbelievers resented Barlaam for his faith so he was thrown into prison and tortured. During a pagan holiday, Barlaam was taken to a temple where a dishonorable judge hoped to make him offer a sacrifice to idols. He was forced to stretch out his hand over an altar, upon which a fire was lit. They placed burning incense in his hand, as if it were a brass censer. This valiant soldier for Christ did not pull away from the heat of the flame. His hand did not flee but remained where it was, bravely overcoming the immeasurable but temporal pain. The red-hot fire battled with his hand but was defeated. War was waged between flame and hand, but the martyr's will prevailed. Although Barlaam's flesh was entirely charred and withered, he feared not this passing misfortune; he awaited his everlasting reward. He willingly entered into eternal rest, never denying our Lord.

Barlaam was written about in glowing terms by no less than St. John Chrysostom who expressed affection for this elderly martyr. A homily by John eloquently told Barlaam's inspirational story.