



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

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 7, 2025
Volume 61: Number 49
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of December 7, - 14, 2025
Celebrating our 98th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, December 7 – 26th Sunday –Holy Martyr Mercurius - Tone 1

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM – Prayers before Holy Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour – **Putting up the Christmas Tree**

Monday, December 8

9:00 – 11:00 AM – Pyrohy Orders

Tuesday, December 9

9:00 – 11:00 AM – Pyrohy Orders

Wednesday, December 10

6:30 PM – Parish Board Meeting

Thursday, December 11

7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Friday, December 12

10:00 – close – Pick up orders

Saturday, December 13 – Holy Apostle Andrew

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

Sunday, December 14 - 27th Sunday – Tone 2

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM – Prayers before Holy Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour – Religious Education

OUR HEARTFELT WELCOME – is expressed to Protopresbyter George and Pani Dobrodyka Lisa Drozdowski who is substituting for me today. May God grant them many, happy and blessed years!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

26th Sunday – Matins: Luke 24:1-12; Liturgy: Ephesians 5:8-19; Luke 13:10-17

Monday – 1 Timothy 5:1-10; Luke 19:37-44

Tuesday – 1 Timothy 5:11-21; Luke 19:45-48

Wednesday – 1 Timothy 5:5:22-6:11; Luke 20:1-8

Thursday – 1 Timothy 6:17-21; Luke 20:9-18

Friday – 2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18; Luke 20:19-26

Saturday – Holy Apostle Andrew – Matins: Matthew 4:18-23; Liturgy: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16; John 1:35-51; Day: Galatians 5:22-6:2; Luke 12:32-40

27th Sunday – Matins: Luke 24:12-35; Liturgy: Ephesians 6:10-17; Luke 18:18-27

The Holy Martyr Mercurius Commemorated December 7



The Holy Great Martyr Mercurius, a Scythian by descent, served as a soldier in the Roman army. The impious emperors Decius (249-251) and Valerian (253-259) issued a decree ordering all Roman citizens to worship the pagan gods, and condemning Christians to torture and death unless they obeyed the decree.

At that time barbarians attacked the Roman empire, and the emperor Decius went on campaign with a large army. In one of the battles an angel of the Lord appeared to Mercurius in the guise of a nobleman and presented him a sword saying, "Fear not, Mercurius. Go forth bravely against the enemy, and when you are victorious, do not forget the Lord your God." With this sword the holy warrior cut through the ranks of the barbarians. He also killed their king, winning victory for the Romans. The grateful Emperor Decius rewarded Saint Mercurius for his bravery, and made him commander of the entire army.

The angel of the Lord appeared again to the holy warrior, who had received great honors and riches, and reminded him by Whom the victory had been given. He also told General Mercurius that he would suffer for Christ, and would receive a crown of victory in His Kingdom. Mercurius recalled that his father Gordian had also confessed the Christian Faith. Although the saint had been baptized, he felt he had not devoted his life to God as his father and grandfather had done. Thus, he was weeping and lamenting when he was summoned before the emperor.

Decius consulted Mercurius on matters of state, then suggested that they offer sacrifice in the temple of Artemis. Not wishing to do this, the saint returned to his home. He was denounced as a Christian by a nobleman, whose name was Catullus. The emperor would not believe this, however, until he himself had questioned the saint. Openly declaring himself a Christian, Mercurius threw down his military belt and cloak at the emperor's feet, and he repudiated all the honors he had received. The angel of the Lord again appeared to Saint Mercurius in the prison, encouraging him to endure every suffering for Christ.

They stretched the holy martyr between four pillars and lit a fire beneath him. They cut his body with knives, and so much blood flowed from his wounds that it extinguished the fire. When they threw him back into the prison nearly dead from his wounds, Saint Mercurius was healed by the Lord, demonstrating the great power of Christ to the impious pagans. Condemned to death, the saint was deemed worthy of a vision of the Lord, Who promised him a quick release from his sufferings. The Great Martyr Mercurius was beheaded at Caesarea in Cappadocia. His holy body emitted a fragrance like myrrh and incense. Many of the sick were healed at his tomb.

Even after his death the warrior of Christ performed a soldier's service for the good of the earthly Church. Saint Basil the Great (January 1) once prayed before an icon of the Most Holy Birth-giver of God, upon which Saint Mercurius was depicted as a soldier holding a spear. He asked God not to permit the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363) to return from his war against the Persians and resume his oppression of Christians. The image of the holy Great Martyr Mercurius, depicted on the icon beside the image of the Most Holy Birth-giver of God, became invisible. It reappeared later with a bloodied spear.

At this very moment Julian the Apostate, on his Persian campaign, was wounded by the spear of an unknown soldier, who immediately disappeared. The mortally wounded Julian, as he lay dying, cried out, "You have conquered, O Galilean!"

The Most Holy Birth-giver of God, through the prayers of Saint Basil, had sent Saint Mercurius to defend the Christians from the apostate Julian. May we also be preserved from God's foes, overcoming them through the prayers and assistance of Saint Mercurius.

25 WAYS WE'RE DIFFERENT THIS CHRISTMAS

Last Christmas we were thinking about all the things we didn't have; this Christmas we are thinking about all the things we do have.

Last Christmas we were placing wreaths on the doors of our homes; this Christmas we are placing wreaths on the graves of our heroes.

Last Christmas we were letting our sons play with toy guns; this Christmas we are teaching them that guns are not toys.

Last Christmas we were counting our money; this Christmas we are counting our blessings.

Last Christmas we were lighting candles to decorate; this Christmas we are lighting candles to commemorate.

Last Christmas we paid lip service to the real meaning of the holidays; this Christmas we are paying homage to it.

Last Christmas we were digging deep into our bank accounts to find money to fly home for the holidays; this Christmas we are digging deep into our souls to find the courage to do so.

Last Christmas we were trying not to let annoying relatives get the best of us; this Christmas we are trying to give the best of ourselves to them.

Last Christmas we thought it was enough to celebrate the holidays; this Christmas we know we must also find ways to consecrate them.

Last Christmas we thought a man who could rush down a football field was a hero; this Christmas we know a man who rushes into a burning building is the real hero.

Last Christmas we were thinking about the madness of the holidays; this Christmas we are thinking about the meaning of them.

Last Christmas we were getting on one another's nerves; this Christmas we are getting on our knees.

Last Christmas we giving thanks for gifts from stores; this Christmas we are giving

thanks for gifts from GOD.

Last Christmas we were wondering how to give our children all the things that money can buy; this Christmas we are wondering how to give them all the things money can't (peace, security).

Last Christmas we were thinking about all the pressure we are under at the office; this Christmas we are thinking about all the people who no longer have an office to go to.

Last Christmas we were singing carols; this Christmas we are singing anthems.

Last Christmas we were thinking how good it would feel to be affluent; this Christmas we are thinking how good it feels to be alive.

Last Christmas we thought angels were in heaven; this Christmas we know they are right here on earth.

Last Christmas we were contemplating all the changes we wanted to make in the New Year; this Christmas we are contemplating all the changes we will have to make in this new reality.

Last Christmas we believed in the power of the pocketbook; this Christmas we believe in the power of prayer.

Last Christmas we were sharing / spreading / listening to gossip; this Christmas we are sharing / spreading and listening to the Gospel.

Last Christmas we were complaining about how much of our earnings went to taxes; this Christmas we comprehend that freedom isn't free.

Last Christmas we valued things that were costly; this Christmas we value things that are holy.

Last Christmas the people we idolized wore sports uniforms; this Christmas the people we idolize wear police, firefighter and military uniforms.

Last Christmas peace on earth is something we prayed for on Sunday morning; now it's something we pray for every day.

A CANDYMAKER'S WITNESS

A candymaker wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbol for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy: white to symbolize the Virgin birth and the sinless nature of Jesus; and hard to symbolize that Jesus is the solid rock, the foundation of the Church.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. It could also represent the staff of the Good Shepherd.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes for the blood shed by Jesus on the Cross so that we would have eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy became known as a candy cane - a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there for those who "have eyes to see and ears to hear".

May this symbol again be used to witness to the wonder of Jesus and His GREAT LOVE. May it be for us a remembrance of Christ's birth and a symbol of thanksgiving for all that He has done for us. Just like the candy, let us remember that being a Christian can be a sweet thing if we really follow Jesus in our lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to 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!

CALLING ALL BAKERS!!! – It is time again for the UOL Christmas Cookies Sale!! We could use all the help that we can get. Please bring at least 60 home-made cookies (NO chocolate chip, please) to the Church on Saturday, December 20 between 9 – 10AM. Thanks!!!!

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2025

Sunday, December 21 – UOL Christmas Cookie Sale – St. Nicholas

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 8 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur
December 15 - Kathy and Michael Chalfont
December 22 - Sandy Cramer
December 29 - Sonya Patronik
2026 – January 4- David and Eve Lazaration

MEETINGS

Parish Board – Wednesday, December 10 @ 6:30 PM

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

December 7 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik
December 14 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik
December 21 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow
December 28 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow
January 4 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin
January 11- Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

100th ANNIVERSARY – will be held on Saturday, July 17th with a 10:00 AM – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with a Banquet at the Claymont Ballroom. Mark your calendars! Our first fund Raiser for the event is the sale of T-shirts (\$10) polo shirts (\$15) and sweat shirts (\$20) with the Anniversary Logo on them thanks to the art and stitching work of Michael Kapelus.

PYROHY – ORDERS (9-11AM) (302) 798-4588

Monday – Tuesday

December 8 & 9

PICKUP

Friday

December 12

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 7 - Linda Hnatow
December 14 - Jean Roeth
December 21 - Thomas Scholz
December 28 – John Plachuta
January 4 - Thomas Sulpizi
January 11 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

FAITH IN ACTION – We will be collecting non-perishable foods for the local food cupboard. The labels are in the office to be placed on each of the items. Let us think about those in need this holiday season and let them never be hungry again.

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of December 8 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of December 15 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of December 22 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of December 29 - Mark & Laura Andreas

2026 – Week of January 5 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

January 12 – John Plachuta and David Lazaration

January 19 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi

January 26 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

HELPERS OF ST. NICHOLAS - Our Ukrainian Orthodox Church is accepting financial contributions to help those in need in Ukraine to have a blessed Christmas. Donations can be sent by using the QR Code on the poster or mailing your check to: UOC of USA; P.O. Box 495; South Bound Brook, NJ 08873; Memo: Helpers of St. Nicholas. Every dollar helps!!

SOUTHERN DELAWARE ORCHESTRA – will partner with the Southern Delaware Chorale to perform Handel's **Messiah** at the Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes, Delaware on Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 PM. Tickets can be obtained at Sodelomusic.org. If you go, say hello to two of the violinists, Walter and Cynthia Stepovij from our Whaleyville Parish.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA - The convoy is coming to Claymont on Thursday, December 11 to "Drive By" the Guardian of Defender Memorial at Holy Rosary Parish 3200 Philadelphia Pike to welcome the convoy as they travel top Arlington National Cemetery. Be there by 1:15PM and bring an American Flag if you can.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father James Weremedic, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Pani Matka Oksanna Bazylevsky, Pani Matka Maryann Ozlanski, Jonathan Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Joyce Belles, Joyce Bendoakas, Ethel Bernhard, Irene Billon, James Bolton, Maria Borowenski, Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Taylor Davis, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Rose Eldridge, Archantula Fanjoy, Mary Farrell, Kandi Fullerton, 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 Holoziak, Jennifer Huertes, Serhii Ivashyna, Violet Jaskolka, Stephen Johnson, Bill Jones, Linda Josepinson, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Tommy Knight, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Francis Lano, Ed Lavender, Ron Lazaration, Joan Libera, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, 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, Rick Orner, Sienna Ozboya, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Daphne Pantelopulos, George Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Janilyn Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Chuck Redden, Patricia Redden, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Richard Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, 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, 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, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook

Apostle Andrew, the Holy and All-Praised First-Called Commemorated on December 13

The Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called was the first of the Apostles to follow Christ, and he later brought his own brother, the holy Apostle Peter, to Christ (John 1:35-42). The future apostle was from Bethsaida, and from his youth he turned with all his soul to God. He did not enter into marriage, and he worked with his brother as a fisherman. When the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John began to preach, Saint Andrew became his closest disciple. Declaring Christ to be the Lamb of God, Saint John the Baptist himself sent to Christ his own two disciples, the future Apostles Andrew and John the Theologian.

After the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, Saint Andrew went to the Eastern lands preaching the Word of God. He went through Asia Minor, Thrace, Macedonia, he reached the River Danube, went along the coast of the Black Sea, through Crimea, the Black Sea region and along the River Dniepro he climbed to the place where the city of Kyiv now stands.

He stopped overnight on the hills of Kyiv. Rising in the morning, he said to those disciples that were with him: "See these hills? Upon these hills shall shine forth the beneficence of God, and there will be a great city here, and God shall raise up many churches." The apostle went up around the hills, blessed them and set up a cross. Having prayed, he went up even further along the Dniepro and reached a settlement of the Slavs, where Novhorod was built. From here the Apostle went through the land of the Varangians towards Rome for preaching, and again he returned to Thrace, where in the small village of Byzantium, the future Constantinople, he founded the Church of Christ. The name of the holy Apostle Andrew links the mother, the Church of Constantinople, with her daughter, the Ukrainian Church.

On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans: they cast him out of their cities and they beat him. The angry Aegeatos gave orders to crucify the apostle. The pagan thought he might undo Saint Andrew's preaching if he were to put him to death on the cross. In order to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeatos gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to tie them to the cross. For two days the apostle taught the citizens who gathered about. The people, in listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and tried to take Saint Andrew down from the cross.

A few centuries later, under the emperor Constantine the Great, the relics of the holy Apostle Andrew were solemnly transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles beside the relics of the holy Evangelist Luke and Saint Paul's disciple Saint Timothy.