



The Good Shepherd

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

February 12, 2023
Volume 59: Number 07
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of February 12 - 19, 2023
Celebrating our 96th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, February 12 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs -
Tone 2

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Panakhya: +Mary Eleanor Woods Smith – Elsie Moroz

Panakhya: +Stephania Hnatow (12 Yrs.), +John Hnatow (9 Yrs.), +Dorothy
Tyrawski (40 Yrs.), +Joe (11 Yrs.) +Myroslava Kulp (17 Yrs.) &
Genevieve Luchejko (40 Days)

Souper Bowl Sunday – **A N N U A L M E E T I N G**

Monday, February 13

8:00 AM – Baking Bread

Tuesday, February 14

10:00 AM – Steaming Cabbage

Wednesday, February 15 – Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple – Bless Candles

8:00 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

7:00 PM – Bible Study

Thursday, February 16

10:00 AM – Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood Meeting

7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Friday, February 17

Metropolitan Council Meeting

Saturday, February 18

Metropolitan Council Meeting

Sunday, February 19 - Meatfare Sunday – Saint Dorothea - Tone 3

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Panakhya: +John Cramer (40th Day)

Meatloaf Dinner

SCRIPTURAL READINGS

Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Three Holy Hierarchs – Matins: Mark 16:1-8; Liturgy: Prodigal: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Luke 15:11-32; Hierarchs: Hebrews 13:7-16; Matthew 5:14-19

Monday – 1 John 2:18-3:10; Mark 11:1-11

Tuesday – 1 John 3:10-20; Mark 14:10-42; Great Vespers: 1st Reading-Exodus 12:51-13:3; 10-12; 14-16; 22-29; Numbers 8:16-17; Leviticus 12:1-4; 6-8; Numbers 8:16-17. 2nd Reading – Isaiah 6:1-12; 3rd Reading Isaiah 19:1-5; 12, 16, 19-21.

Wednesday– Presentation of Our Lord - Matins: Luke 2:25-32; Liturgy: Hebrews 7:7-17; Luke 2:22-40; Day: 1 John 3:21-4:6; Mark 14:43-15:1

Thursday – 1 John 4:20-5:21; Mark 15:1-15

Friday – 2 John 1:1-13; Mark 15:22-25, 33-41

Saturday – 1 Corinthians 10:23-28; Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36; For the Deceased: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 5:24-30

Meatfare Sunday – Matins: Mark 16:9-20; Liturgy: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2; Matthew 25:31-46



THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

The Gospel of St. Luke speaks of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple as follows: "When the days were completed for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord just as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord', and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate of the Law of the Lord" (Luke 2:22-24).

According to the Law (Exodus 3:2) every first-born male of human or animal was sacred to God. When a woman gave birth to a son, she was considered ritually unclean for forty days; if a girl, for eight days. She could not enter the Temple or share in any religious ceremonies (Leviticus 12). At the end of that time she had to bring to the Temple a lamb

for a burnt offering and a young pigeon as a sin offering. Since this was rather expensive for the poor, it was adjusted so that the two pigeons were acceptable. It was this "offering of the poor" that Mary brought.

The Gospel continues with Simeon. "This man was righteous and devout awaiting the consolation of Israel and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he should see the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the Law in regard to him, he took Him into his arms and blessed God, saying: 'Now Master, You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You prepared in sight of all the people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.'"

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RETURN FROM EXILE

(The Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

On the third Sunday of preparation for Lent, we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Together with the hymns of this day, the parable reveals to us the time of repentance as man's return from exile. The prodigal son, we are told, went to a far country and there spent all that he had. A far country! It is this unique definition of our human condition that we must assume and make ours as we begin our approach to God. A man that has never had that experience, be it only very briefly, who has never felt the he is exiled from God and from real life, will never understand what Christianity is about. And the one who is perfectly "at home" in this world and its life, who has never been wounded by the nostalgic desire for another Reality, will not understand repentance.

Repentance is often simply identified as a cool and "objective" enumeration of sins and transgressions, as the act of "pleading guilty" to a legal indictment. Confession and absolution are seen as being of a juridical nature. But something very essential is overlooked - without which neither confession nor absolution have any real meaning or power. This "something" is precisely the feeling of alienation from God, from the joy of communion with Him, from the real life as created and given by God. It is easy indeed to confess that I have not fasted on prescribed days, or missed my prayers, or became angry. It is quite a different thing, however, to realize suddenly that I have defiled and lost my spiritual beauty, that I am far away from my real home, my real life, and that something precious and pure and beautiful has been hopelessly broken in the very texture of my existence. Yet this, and only this, is repentance and therefore it is also a deep desire to return, to go back, to recover that lost home. I received from God wonderful riches: first of all life and the possibility of enjoying it, to fill it with meaning, love and knowledge; then - in Baptism - the new life of Christ Himself, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the peace and the joy of the eternal Kingdom. I received the knowledge of God, and in Him the knowledge of everything else and the power to be a son or daughter of God. And all this I

have lost, all this I am losing all the time, not only in particular "sins" and "transgressions", but in the sin of all sins: the deviation of my love from God, preferring the "far country" to the beautiful home of the Father.

But the Church is here to remind me of what I have abandoned and lost. And as she reminds me, I remember: ""I have wickedly strayed away from Your Fatherly glory," says the Kondak of the day, "and wasted with sinners the riches You gave me. Then do I raise

the Prodigal's cry to You, O bountiful Father: I have sinned against You; take me back as a penitent, and make me as one of Your hired servants . . ."

And, as I remember, I find in myself the desire to return and the power to return: . . . "I shall return to the compassionate Father crying with tears: Receive me as one of Your servants.."

One liturgical particularity of this "Sunday of the Prodigal Son" must be especially mentioned here. At Sunday Matins, following the solemn and joyful Psalms of the Polyeleion, we sing the sad and nostalgic Psalm 137: "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, and we wept when we remembered Zion.. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember you, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy. . .

It is the Psalm of exile. It was sung by the Jews in their Babylonian captivity as they thought of their holy city of Jerusalem. It has become forever the song of man as he realizes his exile from God, and realizing it, becomes man again: the one who can never be fully satisfied by anything in this fallen world, for by nature and vocation he is a pilgrim of the Absolute. This Psalm will be sung twice more: on the last two Sundays before Lent. It reveals Lent itself as a pilgrimage and repentance - as return.

The Holy Martyr Dorothy, the Martyrs Christina, Callista and the Martyr Theophilus lived in Caesarea of Cappadocia and suffered under the emperor Diocletian in either the year 288 or 300. Commemorated on February 6/19

Saint Dorothy was a pious Christian maiden, distinguished by her great beauty, humility, prudence, and God-given wisdom, which astonished many. Arrested upon orders of the governor Sapricius, she steadfastly confessed her faith in Christ and was subjected to tortures.

Failing to break the will of the saint, the governor sent to her two women, the sisters Christina and Callista, who once were Christians, but fearing torture, they renounced

Christ and began to lead impious lives. He ordered them to get Saint Dorothy to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods, but just the reverse happened. Saint Dorothy convinced them that the mercy of God is granted to all who repent, so they corrected themselves and returned to Christ. The tormentors tied them back to back and burned them in a vat of tar. Through martyrdom, Christina and Callista atoned for their sin of apostasy, receiving from God not only forgiveness, but crowns of victory.

Saint Dorothy was again subjected to tortures, but she gladly endured them and accepted the death sentence. She cried out with joy, thanking Christ for calling her to Paradise and to the heavenly bridal chamber. As they led the saint to execution Theophilus, one of the governor's counselors, laughed and said to her, "Bride of Christ, send me an apple and some roses from the Paradise of your Bridegroom." The martyr nodded and said, "I shall do that."

At the place of execution, the saint requested a little time to pray. When she finished the prayer, an angel appeared before her in the form of a handsome child presenting her three apples and three roses on a pure linen cloth. The saint requested that these be given to Theophilus, after which she was beheaded by the sword.

Having received the gracious gift, the recent mocker of Christians was shaken, and he confessed Christ as the true God. His friends were astonished, and wondered whether he were joking, or perhaps mad. He assured them he was not joking. Then they asked the reason for this sudden change. He asked what month it was. "February," they replied. "In the winter, Cappadocia is covered with ice and frost, and the trees are bare of leaves. What do you think? From where do these apples and flowers come?" After being subjected to cruel tortures, Saint Theophilus was beheaded with a sword.

The relics of Saint Dorothy are in Rome in the church dedicated to her, and her head is also at Rome, in a church of the Mother of God at Trastevere.

Troparion — Tone 4 - Your Martyrs, O Lord, in their contest for You * have received as a prize the crowns of incorruption and life from You, our immortal God; * for since they possessed Your strength, they cast down the tyrants * and wholly destroyed the demons' powerless presumption. * O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since You are merciful.

Kontakion — Tone 8 - O divine martyrs, you appeared as bright beacons, * illumining all of creation with the radiance of your miracles; * do not cease to entreat Christ to deliver us all from our maladies, * and drive away from us the profound darkness of ignorance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE - On the morning of February 24, 2022, as dawn broke over Ukraine, Russia declared war in the form of a “special military operation” against Ukraine. It was at 4 am on that day that the war in Ukraine began with a strike of a rocket. With a 7-hour time difference - it was 9pm on February 23, 2022 on the East coast of the United States of America. Millions of innocent children, men and women became refugees overnight in the neighboring Poland, Moldova, Germany and other countries, including the United States of America. Thousands of men and women lost their lives while protecting the peace and life and Ukraine. Thousands of civilians lost their homes and belongings.... Over a thousand children have been wounded and killed. Millions of people worldwide have felt the consequences of the war in Ukraine, due to food shortage, etc. That is the reality of a yearlong unprovoked war of Russian in Ukraine. Please join us at the Spiritual Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in South Bound Brook/Somerset, NJ for a commemorative Prayer Vigil on February 23, 2023 at 8pm in order to embrace the people and nation of Ukraine with reflections and prayers, as the world marks the first anniversary of this barbaric attack on civilization. The Prayer Vigil will take place at the Ukrainian Cultural Center (135 Davidson Ave; Somerset, NJ 08873) at 8pm, marking the first moments of the strikes/attacks in Ukraine.

With prayers for the people of Ukraine,
+**Daniel**, Archbishop of the UOC of the USA

ANGELS OF LOVE – to commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine, we ask that children create and send Angels of Love to the Consistory of the UOC of USA by February 19 to be displayed in support of Ukraine’s battle for freedom. A template and instructions are available on the web site (www.uocofusa.org). Please also display a few Angels in your Parish as well.

Please take some pictures to be sent to the Consistory as well. Please ship all Angels to Archbishop Daniel, 135 Davidson Ave., Somerset, NJ 08873.

ENVELOPES FOR 2023 – The Church envelopes and Calendars for 2019 are ready and can be picked up in the back of the Church.

MEATLOAF LUNCH – Our Parish Sisterhood is sponsoring a Meatloaf Lunch on Meatfare Sunday, February 19. All are invited to participate.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Our UOL is sponsoring Souper Bowl Sunday on Sunday, February 12 (before our Annual Meeting) All proceeds will be given to ST. Andrew Society for their help of the Soup Kitchens of Ukraine.

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 12 – ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 12 – Souper Bowl Sunday (UOL)

Sunday, February 19 – Meatloaf Dinner (Meatfare Sunday)

Sunday, February 26 – Joint Prayer Service with the Episcopal Church
For Peace in Ukraine 1PM

Monday, February 27 – First Day of the Fast

Wednesday, March 8 – Community Lenten Service (Here)

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 Feast Day

Saturday, August 5 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, November 4 – Fall Bazaar

Tuesday, November 21 – Community Thanksgiving Service – Holly Oak Calvary
Methodist Church 7PM

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of February 13 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of February 20 - Mark & Laura Andreas

Week of February 27 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of March 6 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of March 13 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

February 12 – Ann Duncan and Linda Hnatow

February 19 – Linda Hnatow and John Plachuta

February 26 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

March 5 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

March 12 – Lorraine Neff and John Plachuta

March 19 – Lorraine Neff and John Plachuta

March 26 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

April 2 – Linda Hnatow and Mathew Andreas

ANNUAL MEETING – Our Annual Meeting will be today, Sunday, February 12 Please plan to attend as we shall discuss where we are going in the following year!

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 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

February 12 – John Plachuta

February 19 - Andrew Duncan

February 26 - Linda Hnatow

March 5 – Thomas Sulpizi

March 12 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

March 19 - Jean Roeth

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.

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

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

February 12 - David and Eve Lazaration

February 19 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

February 26 - Sandy Cramer

March 5 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPRING BAZAAR – MAKING PYROHY

Saturday, February 25; Saturday, March 11; Saturday, March 25

PARISH SERVICE FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE – We will celebrate a joint service for Peace in Ukraine on the first anniversary of the beginning of the war in Ukraine with our friends of the Episcopal Church. This service will begin at 1PM. Please plan to attend.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archimandrite Raphael, Father Vasili Andrejuk, Father George Bazylevsky, father Constantine Christo, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, 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, 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, Ryan Pinkowicz, 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, John Serth, 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, Michael 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.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD CARES FOR ALL!

Written in the Gospel of Matthew 18:12, it states: "IF A MAN HAS 100 SHEEP AND ONE GOES ASTRAY, DOES HE NOT LEAVE THE 99 TO SEEK THE ONE THAT IS LOST?" Just as the icon on today's bulletin depicts, he is referring to our Lord as the GOOD SHEPHERD.

Artists often give the impression that the life of a shepherd is a peaceful and idyllic one. In reality, it was a grim struggle for survival that he experienced on a daily basis. In the rugged and rough hills of Judea, a shepherd had to be a companion, leader, defender and provider for his flock. Indeed, a flock's very existence depended upon their shepherd. To the shepherd, EVERY MEMBER OF HIS FLOCK was important. He would seek out the sheep who would stray from the rest, and he would give special attention to the weak and injured entrusted to his care.

It is no wonder, then, that Christ would proclaim: "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, AND I KNOW MY SHEEP, AND AM KNOWN BY MY OWN." (John 10:14) Yes, our Saviour takes the role of a shepherd to the ultimate level. He protects His flock from their enemies. He feeds them with His own Body and Blood. He knows His sheep from within, dwelling in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. He loves His sheep - loves them so much that He would willingly give up His life for them.

Christ clearly points out the reward that awaits His chosen flock: "I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE, AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH." (John 10:28)

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