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## **Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin**

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Wilmington, DE 19809

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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

**January 29, 2023**  
**Volume 59: Number 05**  
**Schedule of Services and Activities**  
**Week of January 29 – February 5, 2023**  
**Celebrating our 96<sup>th</sup> year of Service to the Lord**

Sunday, January 29 – 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost -Tone 8

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Panakhyda: +Vasilijs Bazinous (12 Yrs.) - Anatolij & Jelena Bazanou &  
Family

Panakhyda: +Margaret Donna Robinson – Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Panakhyda: +Maria Russak and +Evdokia

Coffee Hour

Friday, January 3

7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Panakhyda: +Archimandrite Athanasiy and Father John Udics (7 Yrs.)

Sunday, February 5 – 34<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost -Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee -  
Tone 1

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

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**SCRIPTURAL READINGS**

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Chains of ST. Peter – Matins: John 21:15-25; Liturgy: 1 Timothy 4:9-15; Luke 19:1-10; Chains: Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11; John 21:15-25

Monday –Venerable Anthony the Great – Matins: Matthew 11:27-30; Liturgy: Hebrews 13:17-21; Luke 6:17-23; Day: 1 Peter 2:21-3:9; Mark 12:13-17

Tuesday - 1 Peter 3:10-22; Mark 12:18-27

Wednesday – 1 Peter 4:1-11; Mark 12:28-37

Thursday – 1 Peter 4:12-5:5; Mark 12:38-44

Friday – 2 Peter 1:1-10; Mark 13:1-8

Saturday – 2 Timothy 2:11-19; Luke 18:2-8

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee – Matins: Matthew 28:16-20; Liturgy: 2 Timothy 3:10-15; Luke 18:10-14

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**The Veneration of the Honorable Chains of the Holy and All-Praised Apostle, Peter**  
The details of this feast are present in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Acts of the Holy Apostles. The first serious persecution of Christians began under King Herod Agrippa. He had St. James the Apostle killed by sword and Peter imprisoned. St. Peter was behind bars, put in iron fetters and guarded by 16 soldiers. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out to kill him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. An angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." The chains fell off his hands. The angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals. Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." Peter did as he was told went out and followed him. He did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and told that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are mad." But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel!" But Peter continued knocking; and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed. But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell this to James and to the brethren." Then he departed and went to another place.

The chains were carefully preserved by the early Christians and have been preserved from the fourth century in Rome and in Constantinople. Small filings from the chains have been distributed to holy places throughout the world and are venerated as precious relics which had healing powers.

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## **PREPARATION FOR LENT**

### **1. THE DESIRE : SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS**

Long before the actual beginning of Lent, the church announces its approach and invites us to enter into the period of pre-Lenten preparation. It is a characteristic feature of the Orthodox liturgical tradition that every major feast or season - Easter, Christmas, Lent, etc. - is announced and "prepared" in advance. Why? Because of the deep psychological insight by the Church into human nature. Knowing our lack of concentration and the frightening "worldliness" of our life, the Church knows our inability to change rapidly, to

go abruptly from one spiritual or mental state to another. Thus, long before the actual effort of Lent is to begin, the Church calls our attention to its seriousness and invites us to meditate on its significance. Before we can "practice" Lent we are given its "meaning". This preparation includes five consecutive Sundays preceding Lent, each one of them - through its particular Gospel lesson - dedicated to some fundamental aspect of repentance.

The very announcement of Lent is made the Sunday on which the Gospel lesson about Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) is read. It is the story of a man who was too short to see Jesus but who **DESIRED** so much to see Him that he climbed up a tree. Jesus responded to his desire and went to his house. Thus the theme of this first announcement is **DESIRE**. Man follows his desire. One can even say that man **IS** desire, and this fundamental psychological truth about human nature is acknowledged by the Gospel: "Where your treasure is," says Christ, "there will your heart be." A strong desire overcomes the natural limitations of man; when he passionately desires something he does things of which "normally" he is incapable. Being "short", he overcomes and transcends himself. The only question, therefore, is whether we desire the right things, whether the power of desire in us is aimed at the right goal, or whether - in the words of the existentialist atheist, Jean Paul Sartre - man is a "useless passion".

Zacchaeus desired the "right thing"; he wanted to see and approach Christ. He is the first symbol of repentance, for repentance begins as the rediscovery of the deep nature of all desire: the desire for God and His righteousness, for the true life. Zacchaeus is "short" - petty, sinful and limited - yet his desire overcomes all of this. It "forces" Christ's attention; it brings Christ to his home. Such, then, is the first announcement, the first invitation: ours is to **DESIRE** that which is deepest and truest in ourselves, to acknowledge the thirst and hunger for the Absolute which is in us whether we know it or not, and which, when we deviate from it and turn our desires away, makes us indeed a "useless passion". And if we desire deeply enough, strongly enough, Christ will respond.

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### LOST AND FOUND

Today is the Sunday of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was, as we know, one of the last to convert before Jesus ascended the Cross (The penitent thief who was crucified with Jesus was the final convert).





Zacchaeus said to himself that it was curiosity that drew him to Christ. There was something better that must have been stirring within him; possibly, Zacchaeus may have been afraid to acknowledge this within himself. The fame of Jesus as a friend of Publicans had probably reached Zacchaeus and touched him. There is no other instance where Jesus volunteered His company by inviting Himself to Zacchaeus' house. Christ never goes where He is not wanted, nor does He stay away from where He is wanted.

This voluntary association with the outcast Zacchaeus is a symbol of Christ's whole work. The desire to save Zacchaeus coupled with His willingness to be identified with sinners) which led Him into the house of the shunned Zacchaeus) led our Lord from Glory to earth and caused Him to "dwell among us".

Zacchaeus comes down from the tree as fast as he can and is happy for He has found the Savior. Christ is glad for He has found a sinner whom He will make a Saint. The experience of Christ's love convinces Zacchaeus far more than any threat. The touch of love melts him as a warm hand laid upon the snow.

His so-called curiosity is changed into a higher feeling. The change shows itself in the new kind of life that he proposes to lead. It is Jesus Who chooses Zacchaeus. Jesus, the searcher of souls, knew that this particular soul was ripe and ready. And so, Jesus calls Zacchaeus down from the tree and invites Himself as a guest in his house: "I must stay at your house today". He needs only to see a soul willing to be changed. He seeks only a loving response from people when He offers to live with them.

### **SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS**

Once again, we are asked by our Church to prepare ourselves to make a journey. The actual trip will begin four weeks from tomorrow. We call this journey "The Great Fast". If we take this expedition of our soul seriously, we shall find that when we reach our destination; the week of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we shall feel closer to Him than we did before Great Lent began. This is the purpose of this adventure: to get to know the Lord a little better and to understand a little more that "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:14-15).

Most people who have a problem with Great Lent complain that it begins too quickly and that before they are prepared to start it, they have already failed in fasting and prayer. The solution to that problem is quite simple. As with any major undertaking in our life, we have a need to get ready, to prepare for the long haul. And so the Church helps us by

giving us a few weeks before the Fast to get our hearts, our minds and our souls focused on where we are to go during the Fast. The first thing that we need to prepare for Lent we learn from Zacchaeus: we must desire to see Christ and become closer to Him in our lives. Have you ever tried to picture the scene in today's Gospel? Zacchaeus is a rich man who would have held at least the same status of a director of a bank in a small town. Zacchaeus was wealthy in material goods but yet had an empty spot in his soul. He decides that he wants to see Jesus. In spite of living a life against his own religion and a life perhaps even unworthy of him as a man, he still had a yearning to search out that which is true, that which is good.

In his passionate desire to see Jesus, Zacchaeus meets with two obstacles. First, he must catch the eye of Jesus. This will be no easy task since he was a very short man. Surely he would be hidden by the throng of the crowds. Secondly, if he openly seeks Jesus, he will be criticized by his fellow men.

What should he do? He makes the decision. He will climb a sycamore tree. Can you imagine a director of the bank in which you do business climbing a tree in order to see a passing preacher? He was whistled at, laughed at, jeered at, mocked and then it got ugly! Zacchaeus did not care. His mind was made up. He was going to see Jesus. This was the most important thing in his life.

Let us ask ourselves, what would we have done if we were in the position of Zacchaeus? Would our desire to see Jesus, to be with Jesus have been so great that we would have tried to overcome any obstacle that stopped us from doing so, even at the expense of being a laughing-stock to our friends and neighbors?

Being afraid of ridicule is probably what stops most people from building a closer relationship with God. The Fathers of the Church tell us that it is not often the attraction of evil nor the opposition that we encounter that prevents us from starting a new life - it is the fear of being ridiculed - to be laughed at that stops us.

There are only two possible choices for overcoming this vanity to public opinion: pride or humility. There is no third choice. The person who is vain becomes the slave of others. The conscience becomes silent before the voice of the crowd. God's laws are out - the will of the people is "in". The choice to give into peer pressure becomes even more foolish in the respect that the very people whose opinion we hang onto are usually the very people whom we do not even respect. But we are "small men" and would rather not work at trying to lift ourselves up and out of the hole that we dug for ourselves. It's easier to stay with the crowd.

Zacchaeus was different. In all humility he sat in that tree and waited for the coming of the Lord. What happens next is a total reversal of the plot. We saw that it was Zacchaeus who desired to see Jesus. But now, who finds whom? It is the Christ who finds Zacchaeus. As He approaches, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, finds His faithful servant prepared and waiting for Him. "Zacchaeus, come down, for today I must stay in your house," (Luke 19:15) Jesus says. What a beautiful picture! The seeker becomes the one sought after.

There is another reversal as well. Our old adage of being "up a tree", meaning that we are in trouble is now turned on its ear. For here was Zacchaeus, up a tree, but not in trouble: he is saved.

Let us begin our preparation for the Great Fast in all earnestness and seriousness. Let us stop deluding ourselves into thinking that we are the best that we can be and therefore have no room for improvement. Let us imitate Zacchaeus and let us desire to see Jesus with all our heart, all our mind, and all our strength. Let us put all other things aside as we prepare. Let us place God first in our minds, in our hearts and in our souls. Then we shall truly have begun our preparation for the Great Fast.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - is expressed to Adam Roch , 1/31; Vera Muntyanu, 2/3 & Keith Beaudean, 2/4. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

**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.

**2022 Statements** – are available. Please see Pani Elizabeth for yours.

**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.

**ANNUAL MEETING** – Our Annual Meeting will be moved from Sunday, February 5 to Sunday, February 12 due to the ordination to the Subdeaconate of Marc Jaskolka by His Eminence Metropolitan Antony at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Dover, DE on Sunday, February 5. Please make a note of the change in the date and please plan to attend as we shall discuss where we are going in the following year!



**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES** – are expressed to Elsie Moroz and Family on the falling asleep in the Lord of +Mary Eleanor Wood Smith, who is the daughter of a WWII soldier of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Deadeyes) on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Let us pray asking God to place the soul of His newly departed Servant, +Mary Eleanor, in the abode of the Saints, where there is no pain, sorrow nor mourning but only life everlasting. Let us also pray for the family that God may give them His strength in this, their hour of need.

**WINE TASTING** – Special thanks are offered to CO-Chairperson Linda Hnatow for a fabulous evening. Special thanks also to Laura Andreas for helping in the set up and to all who prepared food for the event. Special thanks to Aresh at Silverside Discount Liquors across the street from us for providing all the wine for the tasting. Special thanks also to all who participated in our first wine tasting.

**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!

### **READER MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

January 29 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

February 5 - Jean Roeth

February 12 – John Plachuta

February 19 - Andrew Duncan

February 26 - Linda Hnatow

March 5 – Thomas Sulpizi

**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 events may not occur.

## **GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

January 30 - Sandy Cramer

February 5 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik

February 12 - David and Eve Lazaration

February 19 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

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

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

## **TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS**

### **Sunday, February 12 – ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, February 12 – Souper Bowl Sunday (UOL)

Sunday, February 19 – Meatloaf Dinner (Meatfare Sunday)

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 Feast Day

Saturday, August 5 – UOL Flea Market

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

Week of January 30 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of February 6 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

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

## **MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

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

January 15 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

January 22 - Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

January 29 – Victor Kaliakin and Lorraine Neff

February 5 – Victor Kaliakin and Lorraine Neff

February 12 – Ann Duncan and Linda Hnatow

February 19 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

**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 Mark Odell, 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 Golovniow, 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 Hnатов, Michael Hnатов, Daniel Holoiviak, 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.

## ST. GREGORY: DEFENDER OF THE FAITH

When the "age of persecution" ended, the Church faced challenges to her very existence from an unlikely direction: from within! False teachings and misrepresentations of the theological truths that are now so dear to us threatened to divide and destroy the Christian Church long before its sacred mission could be fulfilled.

Fortunately, the Church was blessed with powerful and eloquent "voices of reason," who were able to brilliantly speak out and defend the Faith against all forms of heresy. ST. GREGORY OF NYSSA was one of the strongest supporters of Holy Orthodoxy.

St. Gregory was the brother of St. Basil the Great, another well-known Church Father. As a clergyman, he distinguished himself as a preacher and a scholar. Upon the death of his wife, Gregory was consecrated as Bishop of Nyssa. During this time, the Church was shaken by the heretical movement of a priest from Alexandria named Arius, who claimed that Christ was CREATED by God the Father and, therefor NOT EQUAL to the Father, as our Lord Himself proclaimed. This was seen as undermining the important doctrines of the Holy Trinity and of salvation through Jesus Christ.

When the Emperor Valens, a follower of Arius, came into power in 374 A.D., he removed Gregory from his episcopal seat and banished him from the region. Upon the death of the Emperor, Gregory returned to his position in Nyssa and, along with his famous brother, Basil the Great, brought about the defeat of Arius and his false teachings once and for all. He was a vocal participant in the 2nd Ecumenical Council, which was held in Constantinople in 381 A.D. He will always be remembered for standing up for the Faith in a firm and unwavering manner.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.