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

July 26, 2026
Volume 61: Number 30
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of July 26 – August 2, 2026
Celebrating our 99th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, July 26 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 7
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour

Tuesday, July 28
6:00 – 8:00 PM – Flea Market Drop off

Wednesday, July 29
6:00 – 8:00 PM – Flea Market Drop off

Thursday, July 30
6:00 – 8:00 PM – Flea Market Drop off

Saturday, August 1
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – UOL Flea Market

Sunday, August 2 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 8
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour

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FATHER STEPHEN ON VACATION – Father Stephen will be on vacation from Sunday, July 26 – Saturday August 8. In case of an emergency, please call Father Emmanuel Pratsinakis (215) 543-2989 or Father Constantine (Gus) (302) 298-5183.

IT"S SUMMER TIME – a time to relax in the sun, take some down time, enjoy our vacations. Please don't forget about your Parish as we cannot get a vacation from our bills. Treasurer, Mark Andreas

SCRIPTURE READINGS

8th Sunday – Matins John 20:11-18; Liturgy: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 14:14-22
Monday – 1 Corinthians 11:31-12:6; Matthew 18:1-11
Tuesday – Great Prince Volodymyr – Matins: John 10:9-16; Liturgy: Galatians 1:11-19; John 10:1-9; Day: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Matthew 18:18-22 – 19:1-2, 13-15
Wednesday – 1 Corinthians 13:4-14:5; Matthew 20:1-16
Thursday – 1 Corinthians 14:6-19; Matthew 20:17-28
Friday – 1 Corinthians 14:26-40; Matthew 21:12-14, 17-20
Saturday – Romans 14:6-9; Matthew 15:32-39
9th Sunday – Prophet Elijah – Matins: John 20:19-31; Liturgy: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17; Matthew 14:22-34; Prophet Elijah: James 5:10-20; Luke 4:22-30

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Saint Volodymyr the Baptizer: Wetting cultural appetites for the Gospel

Saint Volodymyr the Great

The period between July 28 and August 14 is a significant one in the history of the Kyivan Church. These dates frame a time of celebration of St Volodymyr and his legacy to our Church. The first date is his proper feast, while the latter date marks the day on which Volodymyr officially received Orthodox Christianity as the state religion of Kyivan Rus'-Ukraine in A.D. 988. What was it exactly that this Sovereign did and why is it so significant?

Having inherited a vast empire from his grandmother, St Olha, Volodymyr pressed forward with her vision of a people united by a common spiritual culture that transcended the parochial loyalties of their local traditions. Volodymyr even considered other religions at first, including Judaism. A legendary story handed down to us affirms that Jewish missionaries approached Volodymyr to accept Judaism, much as had happened with the Hebrew Kingdom of the Khazars previously.

For Volodymyr, the reception of Byzantine Christianity had more to do with cultural proscriptions, such as the fact that his grandmother had been baptized there, than even with the all-important political considerations. The theories of some that Volodymyr actually "tried" Islam and other religions to see, one would presume, "how they fit" is a modern interpretation that has no basis in historical fact or even speculation.

Did Volodymyr "force" Christianity on his people? That question betrays a modern bias. People always followed the religion of their leaders. Did anyone ask the peoples of

Scandinavia if they wanted to become Lutheran in the sixteenth century? Or those of Britain if they wanted to become Anglican or Calvinist?

Volodymyr himself followed what those did before him. Tradition was more than a series of quaint customs. It was and is a way of life based on a deep-rooted relationship to one's ancestors. The success of Christianity, once received through Baptism, would only come about, however, to the extent that it was "married" to the culture and way of life of the people. This task Volodymyr relegated to the Church itself.

A special four volume "Trebnyk" or Book of Blessings was developed by the Kyivan Church that related prayer to the daily activities of the rural populace of most of its members. The Church followed nature's cycles to the letter, respecting its inherent holiness. The people in turn respected the Church for inculturating their way of life into its vision of faith and life in accordance with the Gospel of Christ.

Fairly soon, a Christian culture would intimately link the people's not too distant pagan roots with a faith that struggled to displace the old gods. In many cases, the Saints simply took over where the old gods left off. The first Church in Ukraine was built in honor of the Prophet Elias (Feast: August 2nd) on the site of a pagan temple dedicated to the god "Perun" who was the god of thunderbolts. The cult of St Elias took on that of Perun. Elias, having gone up to heaven in a chariot of fire, was said to protect against lightning during the summer flash storms. A candle would be lit before his Icon in homes during devastating storms as well as during times when people would be slowly dying. St Antipas of Pergamon became the patron for those suffering from toothache, a common malady. Thank God for our dentists today!

Sts. Savaty and Zosimas, along with St John the Baptist were and are the patrons of the bees and bee-keeping. Sts. Florus and Laurus the patrons of farming, along with St George, whose two feasts in May and November, frame the agricultural year in Ukraine.

Various local traditions that echoed ancient ones kept the integrity of the people's material culture alive while being infused with a Christian meaning. Kolbassa was, in fact, a ritual food that was bound up with the cult of the wild boar, widely worshipped throughout Central Europe at one time. To eat it was a kind of "communion" with the god of the wild boar, said to placate him. Slavs were deathly afraid of forests and of the wild animals within them . . . But the eating of kolbassa continued, especially at the Paschal season, even though Eastern Patriarchs sometimes wrote to the Kozaks asking them to stop practicing such "pagan traditions." Among these they also included the Paschal dances, the "Hahilky" which were taken over from pre-Christian times as well.

The fact is that even if Ukraine had not become Christian, holidays such as "Sviat-Vechir" at Christmas and others would still be practiced in virtually the same form and manner as they are today! The veneration of the "holy corner" in Slavic homes continues in the "Icon Corner" where icons decorate the main corner of the home which is also where all the family celebrations always take place, a tradition peculiar to the East Slavs.

The use of the pussy-willow, an ancient pre-Christian practice, continued in the Kyivan Church, not because "real palm branches" could not be had, but because the pussy-willow exemplified the Resurrection of Christ to the Slavs in a much more meaningful way!

Saint Volodymyr baptized more than just the people on 14 August 988. He also baptized an entire culture, grafting these Ukrainian shoots onto the Vine that is Christ. This was happening in other cultures and with other peoples. It is just that the way in which the Kyivan Church conducted its process of inculturation of the Gospel throughout Kyivan Rus' was most ingenious and successful.

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SAINT MARINA July 17(30)

St Marina was born around the mid to late 3rd Century in Pisidia, Asia Minor. Her father was a pagan priest and her mother died when she was very young. Her nursemaid is the one who raised her in the Christian faith.

When her father learned about Marina being a Christian, he disowned her. At about fifteen years of age, Marina was arrested and thrown in prison for being a Christian. This was during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian (284-305) who was very brutal towards Christians. Marina was held in custody in the district ruled by

Governor Olymbrios.- He tried to persuade Marina to renounce Christ and become his wife. She refused and was subjected to brutal tortures. These included: being nailed to a board with her flesh being lashed at with tridents and being violently beaten. Yet, miraculously the Lord completely healed her wounds. Her healed body would, however, be temporary since she was soon tied naked to a tree and burnt alive.

As her flesh was burning, Marina beseeched the Lord to permit her to be baptized in water. The Governor overheard her say the word water and so ordered her to be drowned in a cauldron. Marina besought the Lord to make this torture acceptable as her baptism.

The moment Marina was forced down into the water, a light shone from above and a dove descended from Heaven upon her with a golden crown in its beak. This is reminiscent of the Lord's Baptism in the Jordan River: *and immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove* (Mk 1:10).

Miraculously, the fetters on Marina miraculously broke off and she glorified the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

When she emerged from the cauldron, once again Marina's body was completely healed. Those who witnessed this glorified God and became Christians. For Christ Himself said: *let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven* (Mt 5:16). Those who do good works are not to be praised and glorified, rather the works bear witness to God that He may be glorified. The Governor was outraged and ordered the execution of all Christians in that region. A total of 15,000 Christians were martyred for the True Faith that day. St Marina was among the martyrs, she was beheaded.

From infancy you were consumed with wholehearted love for Christ the Bridegroom, O virtuous maiden. So you ran to Him, like a thirsty gazelle to ever-flowing springs, and you preserved your-self in the contest, and as a glorious bride you reached the truly eternal chamber of your Creator, decorated, adorned, crowned, glowing as a torch-bearing victor; and you were given the award, as if a gold medal, as a winner in the martyric game (Festal Oikos).

The relics of St Marina are deposited in a church dedicated to the Theotokos in Athens. Her venerable hand was transferred to the Vatopedi monastery in Mount Athos. St Marina's intercessions are sought especially for deliverance from demonic possession. There is an icon of St Marina, depicting her shattering the Evil One with a hammer. This is similar to that of the icons of St George and St Demetrios. Both these Saints are depicted shattering evil with a spear in lieu of a hammer.

In a time of distress and uncertainty, we look upon St Marina as an example of resilience and piety. Her faith in Christ only increased the more she was tortured. Her purpose in life was simply to serve Christ. Saint Marina experienced one torture after the other, not knowing what was to come next. All she knew was that she believed in Christ and would contest her faith in Him, even to the point of death.

All-laudable martyr Marina, neither the fire of torments nor the enjoyment of pleasure, nor worldly graces, nor the delight of youth, separated you from the love of Christ! You desired to reach the surpassing beauty of your holy Bridegroom: You were made worthy of this, most divinely-blessed one (Stichera of Festal Vespers)!

Many miracles have occurred by this Saint. There was one particular story that Saint Marina appeared during an operation in a hospital. The parents of a sick child had heard from an abbot at a monastery in Andros about St Marina. The monastery was named after

the Saint and the abbot told the parents about many miracles that occurred by Saint Marina. So, in fervent prayer, the parents sought the intercessions of the Saint.

The family was from Cyprus and travelled to the United States where the operation was to be performed. On the day of the operation, St Marina was assisting the surgical team perform a very risky and difficult bone marrow transplant on the young boy. No one knew who she was as she worked anonymously until someone noticed later that she signed the medical record as *Marina from Andros.*

Having read about this true story, my wife and I decided to name one of our daughters Marina. Up until the day of her delivery, one of my twin daughters wasn't positioned properly in the womb and causing a risk to the delivery. The doctor said that a caesarean section was the only possibility and that there may be complications. My wife and I prayed to both Saints Marina and Barbara for their intercessions before the Lord. So, that morning of delivery, one last sonogram was done and a miracle occurred.

The one daughter, known as Twin B, turned into the cephalic position and both daughters soon entered into the world safely and healthy. Naturally, Twin B was named Marina.
year on their birthday we keep it as a family tradition to remember this great miracle as part of our personal synaxarion. All we could say is: we were *surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses* (Heb 12:1). Glory be to God for all things!

May we all seek the intercessions of the Great Martyr, Saint Marina, before the Lord our God, for health and well-being.

With a voice of rejoicing and with psalms of great jubilation, let us praise Marina the martyr; She destroyed the delusion of idols on the earth! Manfully she trampled on the enemy! Having been perfected she ascended into the heavens, bearing a crown of victory and crying out: I long for You, my Bridegroom! With desire for Your love, and for Your sake I gave my body to the fire! Therefore, I shall dwell in the eternal mansions, the abode of those who rejoice (1st Doxastikon of Festal Vespers)!

-John Athanasatos

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Kateryna Bazinov, 7/26 & Anastasia Hutnick, 7/31. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy & blessed years!

MEETINGS: Parish Board – Wednesday, August 11 (tentative)@ 6:30 PM.

Pyrohy Schedule: Saturday, August 22; Saturday, September 19 & Saturday, October 3

UOL FLEA MARKET

Our UOL is sponsoring their annual Flea Market on Saturday, Augus1 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. All donations of your treasures will be graciously accepted. **Please note that all donations of clothing must be clean and only gently worn.** All donations will be accepted on the following days: **Sunday,** July 26 - after the Divine Liturgy; **Tuesday,** July 28 - Drop off 6:00 -8:00 PM; **Wednesday,** July 29 - Drop off 6:00 -8:00 PM; **Thursday, July 30** - Drop off 6:00 -8:00 PM Also, any finger snacks like cupcakes, brownies, etc. will be graciously accepted. Please support this event!!!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)
July 26 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow
August 2 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin
August 9 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin
August 16 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta
August 23 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta
August 30 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas
September 6 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of July 27 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus
Week of August 3 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration
Week of August 10 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of August 17 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly
Week of August 24 - Mark & Laura Andreas
Week of August 31 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of September 7 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

July 26 - John Plachuta
August 2 – Linda Hnatow
August 9 – Jean Roeth
August 16 - Andrew Duncan
August 23 - Thomas Scholz
August 30 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick
September 6 - Thomas Sulpizi

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 can be avoided.

CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2026
Saturday, August 1 – UOL Flea Market
Sunday, September 20 – Pot Luck Dinner
Saturday, September 26 – Hall Rented
Monday, October 12 – 15 – Clergy Retreat
Saturday, October 17 – UOL Retreat
Saturday, November 7 – Fall Bazaar
Saturday, November 14 – Wine Tasting
Saturday, November 28 – St. Philip Fast
Sunday, December 20 – UOL Cookie Sale

100th ANNIVRSARY – will be held on Saturday, July 17th, 2027 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.

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE
July 26 - Sonya Patronik
August 2 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur
August 9 - David and Eve Lazaration
August 16 - Sandy Cramer

PATRON'S PATH – I have been asked if anyone can add bricks in memory of loved ones or as a family to the Patron's Path. The answer is "yes". We will be taking orders for replacement bricks that will be engraved and placed in the Path. Just as before, each brick can have the clip art of a three bar Cross or it can be plain. The donation for the bricks is as follows: 4" x 8" engraved brick is $150 – with the clip art $175; 8" x 8" engraved brick is $200 - with the clip art $225; 12"x 12" engraved brick is $250 – with the clip art $275

If you didn't get the chance to be a part of the Patron's Path before, take the opportunity now and tell your family members as well. Please see Father Stephen if you would like to place an order.

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 Anthony Ugolnik, 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, George Daniels, Taylor Davis, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Rose Eldridge, Archantula Fanjoy, Mary Farell, Kandi Fullerton, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovniov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, Nancy Hlywiak, Daniel Holoviak, Jennifer Huertes, Serhii Ivashyna, Violet Jaskolka, Stephen Johnson, Bill Jones, Linda Josepinson, Elizabeth Kaliakin, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Tommy Knight, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Francis Lano, Ed Lavender, Ron Lazaration, Joan Libera, Karen Livick, Sara Long, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, Fred McKirachan, Stephen McNulty, Ronald Michel, Mary Ann Michalcewicz, 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, Sandy Roeder, 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, Cynthia Stepovij, Nicholas Stepovij, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Michael Synczyszyn, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, John Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Mariel Trimble, Stephen Tur, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, 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)

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