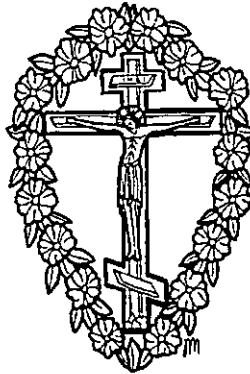


Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

1406 Philadelphia Pike
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Father Stephen Hutnick

(302) 798-4455

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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

March 15, 2026
Volume 62: Number 11
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of March 15 - 22, 2026

Sunday, March 15 – 3rd Sunday of the Fast - Tone 7 – Holy Cross

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM – Prayers Preparation for Holy Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

4:00 PM – St. George Georgian Orthodox Church - 412 Philmont Ave., Feasterville, PA

Monday, March 16

7:00 AM – Lenten Matins

Wednesday, March 18

8:00 AM – Baking Bread

6:00 PM – Canon of ST. Andrew – Community Lenten Service

Lenten Dinner

Thursday, March 19

10:00 AM – Akafist – Memorial (Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD)

5:30 PM – Presanctified Liturgy – (St. Nicholas – Dover, DE)

7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Friday, March 20

7:00 AM – Lenten Matins

10:00 AM – Making meat for holubtsi

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, March 21

9:00 AM – Making holubtsi

Sunday, March 22 – 4th Sunday of the Fast - Tone 8 – St. John of the Ladder

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM – Prayers Preparation for Holy Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

4:00 PM – St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

237 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Third Sunday of the Fast - Matins: John 20:1-10; Liturgy: Hebrews 4:14-5:6; Mark 8:34-9:1.

Monday - Genesis 8:21-9:7; Proverbs 11:19-12:6; Isaiah 14:232

Tuesday - Genesis 9:8-17; Proverbs 12:8-22; Isaiah 25:1-9

Wednesday - Gene 9:1-10:1; Proverbs 12:23-13:9; Isaiah 26:21-27:9

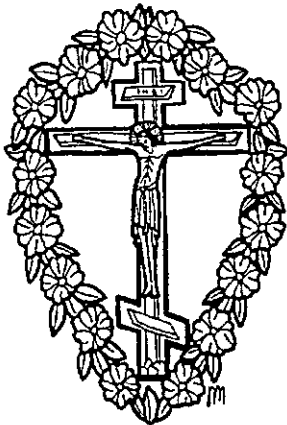
Thursday - Genesis 10: 32-11:9; Proverbs 13:20-14:6; Isaiah 28:14-22

Friday - Genesis 12:1-7; Proverbs 14:15-26; Isaiah 29:13-23

Saturday - Hebrews 6:9-12; Mark 7:31-37; All Souls: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 5:24-30

4th Sunday of the Fast: Matins: Matthew 28:16-20; Liturgy: Hebrews 6:13-20; Mark 9:17-31; St. John of the Ladder: Ephesians 5:9-19; Matthew 4:25-5:12

THE CROSS IS OUR GUIDE



The story is told of a caravan crossing a huge desert. The group had a guide to lead them over the vast terrain. The burning sun seemed beyond endurance. Soon the group's water supply was nearly gone. The people began to see mirages - big palm trees rising in the distance. They started to run towards the trees, but the guide held them back, shouting: "It's only a mirage, it's not real." They obeyed him and continued their journey. But as things got worse, they saw more visions and rushed in the direction of the mirage. Again the guide shouted warnings but they refused to listen, and soon they got lost and perished under the desert sun.

This is a parable of our lives and the place that the Cross should have for us. It is our guide as we journey through life. On the Third Sunday of the Great Fast, the Church places that sacred symbol before us. Let us embrace it as the sign of Christ's love for us.

People often see mirages or visions in life. The grass always looks greener on the other side. We live at a time when it's difficult for people to tell whether they are coming or going, to know which way to live or what to struggle for.

Society presents mirages before us, beckoning us to live its way. Pleasure is one such mirage. The world calls out to all to seek out every form of pleasure, sinful or not. "Do your own thing," it says. The allurements of money, power and fame attract many. Still other mirages are drink and drugs. Thousands get entangled in

these and then find that they cannot escape the maze in which they have become lost.

In all these instances, the Cross shouts to us: it is a mirage, don't follow that way or you will get lost and will perish. Our Lord says: **"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE."** Following Him, following His example of self-denial and sacrifice, we find the right road to our destination here on earth as well as in eternity.

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THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

Today, we shall observe Mid-Lent. This, the Third Sunday of the Fast is dedicated every year to the Adoration of the Holy Cross. As the Cross is at the center of our Faith, it seemed natural to the Church over the course of history, to place this "weapon of victory" in the midst of the assembly mid-way through the most spiritually intense season of the year. Gazing and meditating upon it, the faithful, who have chosen the way of the Cross as the way that leads to life, are renewed and strengthened for what remains of their Lenten pilgrimage to Pascha.

It has been said that Lent is a time for returning to "the basics" of the Faith, for re-evaluating priorities, for renewing one's commitment to Jesus Christ. The Cross, in a profound sense is basic to our Faith. Its acceptance, therefore, as the way of life for Christ's followers lies at the very heart of any understanding of Lent. The Cross is our badge and emblem as Christians. Remove the Cross from our lives and we have nothing. Without the Cross, both in Christ's life and in ours, there is no genuine Christianity and consequently, no reason to observe Lent or any other sacred season.

This fact may seem self-evident. Yet ours is a time in which words like sin, repentance, sacrifice, the Cross and crucifixion, are misunderstood, being viewed even by some Christians with suspicion, as "negative" terms, at least when applied to our own lives. Acceptable, very popular "religious buzz words," are resurrection, triumph, victory, peace and the like. "These are the things," one is told, "that will motivate people, what they want to hear about and acquire for themselves." The problem is that these so-called "positive" elements of the Christian life are unattainable apart from the so-called "negative" elements. Acknowledging sin's existence and its consequences, and being co-crucified with Christ on a daily basis, are all part of 'working out our own salvation with fear and trembling.' (Philippians 2:12)

In speaking of the Cross we must take note of its constant use by Christians. We adorn our church buildings and homes with it. We carry it reverently in procession and venerate it. The Cross is worn around our necks as a daily reminder of who we are: people who have

candle is a pledge of our promise, with God's help and the intercessions of the saints, that we will kindle the fire of faith within ourselves.

Once again, the Cross is at the heart of our "religion." Thus we find its veneration in the middle of the Fast, the great season of repentance and spiritual renewal. The Church reminds us that our minds and our hearts must be on the Cross. Upon it God's only begotten Son gave His life for us. In turn, we must 'lose our lives for His sake and the gospel's,' and thus find salvation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY – SPECIAL THANKS – I would like to thank all those who brought food last Sunday to help feed our faithful and our visitors. Special thanks also to Mark and Laura Andreas for sponsoring the delicious cake. Also to Mark Andreas for being our Parish liaison to the Troop.

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to John Plachuta, 3/16/ & Konstantin Muntyanu, 3/20. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

DONATIONS FOR FLOWERS FOR PASCHA

We shall be taking donations to help pay for the flowers that we ordered to decorate the Tomb for Good Friday and the Church for Pascha. You can donate in memory of a loved one or for the health of a loved one(s). If you are interested, donation per flower is \$15. Please fill out a form and give them to Linda Hnatow. Thanks.

GOOD FRIDAY – PASKA SIGN UP SHEET – is in the back of the Church. Please make plans to give up an hour to be at the Tomb of Our Lord!!

EASTER EGG HUNT – will take place for our youth on Sunday, April 5th after the Divine Liturgy. Please register with Pani Elizabeth. Thanks.

PYROHY & FOOD SCHEDULE FOR THE BAZAAR

Making Holubtsi – Saturday, March 21

SPECIAL THANKS - TO Linda (Chainsaw) Hnatow for cutting and taking care of the pussywillows;

To Pani Dobrodyka Elizabeth Hutnick for donating and sewing the new Communion cloths.

May God reward your kindness a hundred fold!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

March 15 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

March 22 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

March 29 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

April 5 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

April 12 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

April 19 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

April 26 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of March 16 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of March 23 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of March 30 - Mark & Laura Andreas

Week of April 6 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of April 13 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi

Week of April 20 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of April 27 – John Plachuta and David Lazaration

MEETINGS

Parish Board – Tuesday, April 14 @ 6:30 PM

100th ANNIVERSARY – 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.

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.

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 15 - Jean Roeth

March 22 – Thomas Scholz

March 29 – Andrew Duncan

April 5 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

April 12 - Thomas Sulpizi

April 19 - John Plachuta

April 26 - Linda Hnatow

died and risen with Christ. In addition we sign ourselves with the Cross. In so doing we mark or brand ourselves, on the one hand, with the emblem of shame. For our Lord, pure, undefiled and guiltless, was put to death in a manner reserved for the worst of criminals. It is written, "cursed is every one that hangs on a tree." (Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:23) Indeed He was "condemned between two thieves," one of whom confessed, "...we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss...Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." (Luke 23:41-42) By suffering crucifixion our Lord endured the penalty that each of us deserves for our many sins, for our wickedness.

In and through Christ, however, the Cross, once synonymous exclusively with humiliation, becomes His glory and ours as well. It becomes His victory over sin and death and ours also. Through the Cross and its completion in the Third Day Resurrection we have everlasting life. Thus the Cross is the main emblem for Christians of joy and strength. Along with St. Paul we "glory...in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Galatians 6:14)

The Christian must take very seriously the words of our Lord in the Gospel lesson quoted above: "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me." How do we deny ourselves and lose our lives, in order to come after the Lord to save our lives? The answer is very simple, but its very simplicity makes it the hardest thing on earth to accomplish. Nevertheless it must be done, by putting God and our relationship with Him, first, above every other consideration: before business, pleasure, country, family, friends or reputation. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" What a price to pay in order to enjoy a few fleeting years of earthly goods, or brief moments of fame, that we value so highly. Yet, there is no denying it, our Lord stated repeatedly, in no uncertain terms, "What shall a man give...?"

Taking up the Cross and following the footsteps of Christ is not merely a formal compliance with a set of external religious or charitable acts. To be sure, such acts are necessary. We must demonstrate openly how we feel towards Him. These acts, however, cannot be some sort of mechanical or self-affirming performance. Rather they must proceed from the depths of the heart, a heart turned completely toward Christ. Our Lord wants His followers hot, not lukewarm (Revelation 3:15-16), as hot as the flames that burn before icons of His saints. During Great Lent Orthodox Christians are quite accustomed to celebrating the weekday penitential services with great solemnity, almost entirely by candlelight. The burning wicks, illuminating the temple in which God is being praised, are vivid reminders of the heat and intensity of the saints' devotion to Christ. What we say, in effect, when we light candles in Church or before our personal icon corners, is that we now light the flame of devotion in our own hearts. The act of lighting a

CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2026

Saturday, March 28 – Spring Bazaar
Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday – Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 12 – Resurrection of the Lord
Sunday, April 19 – St. Thomas Sunday – Visiting Cemeteries
Sunday May 10 – Mother’s Day Dinner
Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost
Monday, June 8 – Apostle’ Fast
Saturday, June 13 – Hall Rented
Sunday, June 21 – Father’s Day Dinner
Sunday, July 12 – Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul – Patronal Dinner
Saturday, August 1 – UOL Flea Market
Saturday, November 7 – Fall Bazaar
Saturday, November 28 – St. Philip Fast
Sunday, December 20 – UOL Cookie Sale

BREADS FOR SALE – All of our frozen breads are available for \$5. See Kathy Duncan if you are interested.

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 15 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur
March 22 - David and Eve Lazaration
March 29 - Sandy Cramer
April 5 - Sonya Patronik

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesday, March 18 – Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Wednesday, March 25 – Aldersgate Methodist Church

BAZAAR NEWS

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE BAZAAR – Some of the things needed are Diet Coke and Sprite products, cases of water, paper products and dishwashing detergent.

CALLING ALL BAKERS – we always rely on your tasty treats that you donate to the Bake Table. Again, we ask for your sweet donations. Any questions call Andrea. (302) 439-4899.

ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD SERVICES (4:00 PM)

March 15 – St. George Georgian Orthodox Church
412 Philmont Ave., Feasterville, PA

March 22 – St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
237 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA

March 29 – Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church
1406 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, DE

NATIONAL UOL LENTEN RETREAT - March 28, 2026 Retreat will focus
Communion and the Communion prayers. Location: Basilian Spirituality Center, 710 Fox
Chase Rd, Jenkintown, PA 19046 Retreat registration: \$45 for adults (early bird rate) -
\$55 after 3/15/26 \$35 for adolescents (aged 13 to 18) -\$45 after 3/15/26 Free for children
7 to 12- \$25 after 3/15/26 Registration includes breakfast, lunch and snacks. For more
information contact: Oleh or Natalie at nsufler@aol.com call – 610-892-7315

PASKA ORDER FORM – ORDER BY MARCH 29

_____ Small Round (\$8) _____ Large Round (\$12) _____ Butter Lamb (\$5)

Name _____

() **With Raisins**

() **Without Raisins**

Please give to Father Stephen or Kathy Duncan with payment March 29
Paskas will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, April 5

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan

Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevsky, 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, Nicholas Stepovij, David Dalldorf, 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, Daniel Holoviak, 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, Sara Long, 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, Sandy Roeder, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Richard Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, Clay Seman, John Serth, Larissa Sth, 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, 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

“YOU ARE OUR PROTECTION, O PRECIOUS CROSS”

By the grace of God, we have arrived at the Third Sunday of Lent, which is often looked upon as the middle of the Great Fast. We have already endured three weeks of adhering to the severe disciplines our Holy Orthodox Church places upon us during this time. In all honesty, many of us may be experiencing feelings of spiritual fatigue and discouragement as we struggle to keep Lent in a proper and fruitful fashion. Indeed, *“the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

It is significant, then, that the Church places the precious and life-giving Cross before us today. Lest we become overcome by the burdens of Lent, the Church reveals to us on this day the Cross of Christ as a source of inspiration. We are urged to take hope, and to allow the recollection of the suffering and death of our Lord upon the Cross to strengthen us for the remainder of these 40 days of penitence. It has been written that *“The cross is planted in the midst of Lent like the tree of life in the midst of paradise, like the rod of Moses in the midst of the camp of the Israelites, in order that anyone looking upon it may find health, strength and courage to pursue his course.”*

On **CROSS-VENERATION SUNDAY**, Orthodox Christians are reminded that we have this all-powerful weapon in our constant battle against the forces of darkness. Today, the Cross is raised before us as a symbol of **VICTORY** and **SALVATION**. Yes, beyond the suffering that it represents, we are able to see the glory of the Resurrection and the joy of everlasting life when we gaze upon the Cross!