

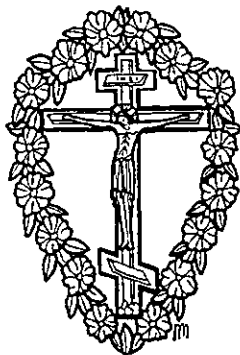
Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

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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

March 23, 2025
Volume 61: Number 12
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of March 23 - 30, 2025

Sunday, March 23– 3rd Sunday of the Fast – The Holy Cross -Tone 6

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM –Prayers before Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

4:00 PM – Orthodox Clergy Vespers (St. Nicholas Serbian
506 Stahr Road, Elkins Park, PA)

Wednesday, March 26

8:00 AM – Butter and onions

6:00 PM – Community Lenten Service (IHM Catholic Church – 4701 Weldin Road,
Wilmington)

Thursday, March 27

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

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

7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Friday, March 28

7:00 AM – Peeling potatoes

10:00 AM – Making Sauerkraut balls

3:00 PM – Making potato balls

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, March 29

8:00 AM – Making pyrohy

Sunday, March 30– 4th Sunday of the Fast – St. John of the Ladder -Tone 7

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM –Prayers before Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

4:00 PM – Orthodox Clergy Vespers (Sts. Peter and Paul – HERE)

SCRIPTUE READINGS

Third Sunday of the Fast - Veneration of the Cross - 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

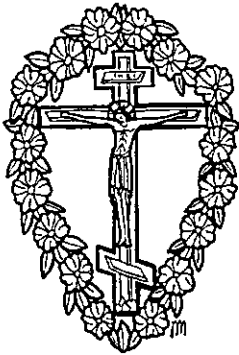
Thursday - Genesis 10: 32-11:9; Proverbs 13:20-14:6; Isaiah 28:14-22

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

Fourth Sunday of the Fast - St. John of the Ladder - Matins: John 20:11-18; Liturgy: Hebrews 6:13-20; Mark 9:17-31; St. John of the Ladder: Ephesians 5:9-19; Matthew 4:25-5:12

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - ADORATION OF THE CROSS (Mark 8:34-38; 9:1).



This Sunday commemorates the venerable Cross and the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Cross as such takes on meaning and adoration because of the Crucifixion of Christ upon it. Therefore, whether it be in hymns or prayers, it is understood that the Cross without Christ has no meaning or place in Christianity. The adoration of the Cross in the middle of Great Lent is to remind the faithful in advance of the Crucifixion of Christ. Therefore, the passages from the Bible and the hymnology refer to the Passions, the sufferings, of Jesus Christ: The passages read this day repeat the calling of the Christian by Christ to dedicate his life, for "If any man would come after me, let him deny

himself and take up his cross and follow me (Christ)" (v. 34-35). This verse clearly indicates the kind of dedication which is needed by the Christian in three steps: (1) To renounce his arrogance and disobedience to God's Plan, (2) To lift up his personal cross (the difficulties of life) with patience, faith and the full acceptance of the Will of God without complaint that the burden is too heavy; having denied himself and lifted up his cross leads him to the (3) Decision to follow Christ. These three voluntary steps are three links which cannot be separated from each other, because the main power to accomplish them is the Grace of God, which man always invokes. The Adoration of the Cross is expressed by the faithful through prayer, fasting, almsgiving and the forgiveness of the trespasses of others. On this Sunday the Adoration of the Cross is commemorated with a special service following the Divine Liturgy in which the significance of the Cross is that it leads to the Resurrection of Christ.

THE CROSS: OUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

The Great Fast is a lengthy period of prayer, fasting and penance. It is a spiritual struggle that begins with great personal expectations and often ends with feelings of discouragement over what we perceive as a lack of accomplishment on our part.

The Church knows our weaknesses well. On the Third Sunday of the Great Fast, to assist us in our attempt to travel the course of Lent in the proper manner, the Cross is placed before us as a powerful incentive for us to persevere in our quest for a fulfilling celebration of our Lord's Resurrection.

Today, our Holy Orthodox Church encourages us to venerate the Cross of our Lord in a very special way, so that we may be strengthened in spirit. It is significant for us to note that in the services prescribed for this day, almost no mention of the Cross is made as being an object of suffering and death. Instead, we speak of it today as a symbol of joy, victory and life. One of the hymns from Vespers for this Sunday proclaims: Rejoice, O Life-giving Cross, most beautiful paradise of the Church, the Tree of Immortality which gave us the joy of everlasting life.



It is customary on the Third Sunday of Lent to carry out the Cross in solemn procession and place it on the tetrapod for veneration by the faithful, as we sing: "Come all you nations, let us extol the Cross of the Lord with hymns of praise."

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SUNDAY OF THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

As we celebrate the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, we stand at the mid-point of the Great Fast. By this time our resolve may be waning, so the Church places into the center of our worship community, the ultimate symbol of love, commitment and sacrifice to re-energize our Lenten journey. The cross is set in our midst to motivate, inspire and give us the grace we need to continue.

"The evil bows before the good, the wicked at the gates of the righteous" (Proverbs 14:19). Evil has been and is a part of the reality of life on this earth. The power of evil in the world has been conquered by Jesus upon the tree of the cross. However each of us must struggle with this concept. God created His people good, yet evil lives in each person because of brokenness. At times there

are those urges which seem to control our very desires and needs. Then there are those nasty feelings which one has towards one another. What about those slips of the tongue which we really didn't mean? Does that mean that we therefore are not responsible? Or can something be done?

As one grows in a relationship with God, the various faces and forms of evil become more easily discerned. A growing, living relationship enables one to face the unknown, the fear, the evil within. This relationship is called prayer. Prayer can be words from a book, memorized or recited in a group, yet this is only the first step of the relationship. More advanced prayer is an animated relationship with God where there is mutual acknowledgment, expression, emotionally, spiritually and psychologically. In such a relationship God is a real, living Person! The season of the Great Fast calls us to prayer and intimate prayer with God when one listens and hears. Prayer is as necessary for our lives as breathing.

Like germs of sickness, could it be true that evil when hidden grows in power and strength? Such things as shame, guilt and ignorance provide the same dark atmosphere to grow. The Lord reveals this world to us and its possession of us at times. Sharing in God's power enables us through prayer and fasting, to place the evil outside our world. Only with God's grace can this be identified and cast out as Jesus shows us with the possessed child in Mark: "This kind you can drive out only by prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29).

FROM VESPERS

Hail! life-giving Cross unconquerable trophy of the true faith, door to Paradise succor of the faithful rampart set about the Church. Through you the curse is utterly destroyed. The power of death is swallowed up, and we are raised from earth to heaven: invincible weapon, adversary of demons, glory of martyrs, true ornament of holy monks, haven of salvation bestowing on the world great mercy.

Come, Adam and Eve, our first father and mother, who fell from the choir on high through the envy of the murderer of man, when of old with bitter pleasure you tasted from the tree in Paradise. See, the Tree of the Cross, revered by all, draw near! Run with haste and embrace it joyfully, and cry to it with faith: O precious Cross, you are our succor partaking of your fruit we have gained incorruption; we are restored once more to Eden, and we have received great mercy.

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.

PROOF OF FASTING

From the Writings of St. John Chrysostom

Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works.

If you see a poor man, take pity on him.

If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him.

Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear; the feet and the hands; and all the members of our bodies.

Let the hands fast by being free of avarice (greed).

Let the feet fast by ceasing to run after sin.

Let the eyes fast by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful.

Let the ears fast. . . by not listening to evil talk and gossip..

Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism.
For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes but bite and devour our brothers?

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Tijana Beaudean, 3/23; Ian Kaliakin, 3/26 & Melanie Walsh, 3/29. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

FROZEN PASKA BREAD FROM THE FALL BAZAAR - will be on sale today. Please see Kathy Duncan if you are interested.

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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP - Making Pyrohy - Saturday, March 29.

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.

UOL SOUPS FOR THE FAST - \$10/quart.

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 23 - Sonya Patronik

March 30 - David and Eve Lazaration

April 6 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

April 13 - Kathy and Michael Chalfont

April 20 - Sandy Cramer

MEETINGS - PARISH BOARD - Tuesday, April 8 @ 6:30 PM

EASTER EGG HUNT - will take place for our youth on Sunday, April 12th after the Divine Liturgy. Please register with either Pani Elizabeth or Olena Smith. Thanks.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

March 23 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow

March 30 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

April 6 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

April 13 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

April 20 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2025

Wednesday, March 19 – Community Lenten Service and Dinner Here 6PM

Sunday, March 30 – Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood Here (4PM)

Saturday, April 5 – Spring Bazaar

Sunday, April 6 – Last Call to Order Paskas!

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Egg Hunt (Palm Sunday)

Sunday, April 20 – Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, May 11 – Mother's Day Dinner

Sunday, May 18 – Boy Scout Court of Honor (2PM)

Sunday, June 15 – Father's Day Dinner – Graduation Sunday

Sunday, July 13 – Patronal Feast Day

Saturday, August 2 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, August 23 – Boy Scout Car Wash at the Church (TTBA)

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

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 23 – Thomas Sulpizi

March 30 – Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

April 6 - Linda Hnatow

April 13 - Jean Roeth

April 20 - Thomas Scholz

April 27 - John Plachuta

May 4 - Andrew Duncan

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of March 24 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi

Week of March 31 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of April 7 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of April 14 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of April 21 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of April 28 - Mark & Laura Andreas

Week of May 5 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Orthodox Clergy Lenten Services

All Services 4PM

Sun., March 23 - St. Nicholas Serbian
506 Stahr Road, Elkins Park, PA

Sun., March 30 - Sts. Peter and Paul
Here

Sun., April 6 - Assumption OCA
2101 S 28th St., Philadelphia

Community Lenten Services

All Services 6:00 PM

Wed., March 26 - IHM Catholic
4701 Weldin Road Wilmington

Wed., April 2 - S. Nicholas Ukr Cath
800 W Lea Blvd, Wilmington, DE

Wed., April 9 - Holy Rosary Church
3200 Philadelphia Pike

PASKA ORDER FORM - ORDER BY APRIL 6

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

Name _____

() With Raisins

() Without Raisins

**Please give to Father Stephen or Kathy Duncan with payment on April 6
Paskas will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, April 13**

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevsky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Mark Kozak, Father Andrew Molewski, Father James Norton, Father Victor Wronsky, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Father Michael Zaparyniuk, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Pani Matka Oksanna Bazylevsky, Pani Matka Maryann Ozlanski, Pani Matka Annette Zaparyniuk, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, 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, Paula Daubert, William Dewhurst, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Archantula Fanjoy, Mary Farell, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovniou, 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, Joette Jago, Violet Jaskolka, Stephen Johnson, Bill Jones, Linda Josepinson, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, 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, Sienna Ozboya, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Daphne Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Janilyn Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Daphne Pantelopulos, George Pantelopulos, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Richard Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, Joella Seale, 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

SUFFERING BRINGS GLORY



At this midpoint of Lent, which the Orthodox Church designates as CROSS VENERATION SUNDAY, the symbol of the Cross is put before us. Let these words by Matthew the Poor serve to strengthen and refresh us:

“For Christ, the mystery of the Cross is the mystery of His glory. The overwhelming suffering the Lord underwent, His psychological torment at the injustice and crookedness of His trial, the desertion of His disciples, the treachery of Judas, and the knowledge that the high priests had agreed with one of His disciples to put a value of just thirty pieces of silver on His life — all this was a path for Him to leave the world of passing trivialities and enter into the glory of the Father. We in every time and place must tread the same path. The Cross with its enormous suffering cannot be compared with the glory it brought forth. The Cross did not come by chance into the life of the Lord; He was born for it. “For this purpose I have come to this hour” (Jn. 12:27). Man is born for suffering, and suffering was born for man. But at the same time the Cross was not an irrevocable imposition on the Lord. We feel this from His words and are sure of it in view of His holiness and divinity. He made it irrevocable for Himself — “Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me?” (Jn. 18:11) — in order to share with us the inevitability of the suffering.”

Icon by Nataliya Zharsky

