



LENT IS A TIME FOR
PRAYER

Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

1406 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, DE 19809

www.sspeterandpauluoc.org

www.orthodoxdelaware.org



Father Stephen Hutnick

(302) 798-4455

E-mail: otche10@gmail.com

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 30, 2025
Volume 61: Number 13
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of March 30 – April 6, 2025

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

Panakhyda: +Mary Berbick (6th An.) – Joyce & Neil Belles

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

WEEK OF THE BAZAAR

Tuesday, April 1

9:00 AM - Frying sauerkraut

Wednesday, April 2

6:00 PM – Community Lenten Service (St. Nicholas – 800 W. Lea Blvd, Wilmington)

Thursday, April 3

7:00 AM – Matins

9:00 AM – Frying cabbage

Friday, April 4

7:00 AM – Matins

8:00 AM – Soups

12 Noon – Set up

12 Noon – 5PM – Baked Table Goods

Saturday, April 5

8:00 AM – Set up kitchen, etc.

10 AM – 3PM – **B A Z A A R**

Sunday, April 6 – 5th Sunday of the Fast – Mary of Egypt -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 (Assumption, OCA (2101 S 28th Street, Phila., PA)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

4th Sunday of the Fast: 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.

Monday – Genesis 13:12-28; Proverbs 14:27-15:4; Isaiah 37:33-38:6

Tuesday - Genesis 15:1-15; Proverbs 15:7-19; Isaiah 40:18-31

Wednesday - Genesis 17:1-9; Proverbs 15:20-16:9; Isaiah 41:4-14.

Thursday - Genesis 18:20-33; Proverbs 16:17-17:17; Isaiah 42:5-16

Friday - Genesis 22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17-18:5; Isaiah 45:11-17

Saturday - Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 8:27-31; God-Bearer - Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

5th Sunday of the Fast - Matins John 20:11-18; Liturgy: Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark. 10:32-45; **St. Mary of Egypt:** Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 7:36-50.

ARE WE CLIMBING THE LADDER OF PERFECTION?

On the 4th Sunday of Lent, the Church always honors the memory of St. John of the Ladder (Climacus) who was born about the year 525 and died in the in the year 606. He was a great teacher of religion. At the age of 16 he climbed up Mt. Sinai to offer himself to God as a living sacrifice. He lived 40 years in the service of god practicing self-mortification, abiding in the desolate wasteness of Sinai, praying, meditating and perfecting a method of sanctification.

He received his name from the well-known book of spiritual exercises which he wrote. The book was called **THE LADDER OF PERFECTION**, and contained 30 chapters for attaining the 30 steps of religious perfection. It was designed as a means for Christians to climb spiritually, as up a ladder, from earth to heaven. In setting before us the example of such persons as St. John, the Church calls upon us to "Seek first the Kingdom of God" and then all that is necessary for our life will be granted unto us.

The Church, during Holy Lent, expects that we depart from the vanities of this world and seek in silence and contemplation the glory of Christ and eternity. It is so difficult for us to do so in this day of great activity and distraction. There is always the radio, television, automobile and telephone. There are so many claims to our attention and our time.

But Lent **MUST** be different. We **MUST** attempt to follow in the footsteps of the warriors of God.

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Suffering and glory are intertwined in Mark's Gospel. Jesus has just warned his disciples that he will lead them to the Cross; now, in a moment of glory on the mountaintop, he reveals the victory on the other side of that cross. Moses and Elijah appear with him to confirm that this Jesus is indeed the culmination of God's plan, the one toward whom both the law and the prophets had pointed.

Even after witnessing the Transfiguration, the three disciples do not fully understand what Jesus says to them or even how to respond to what they have seen (verses 6 and 10). Returning to the other disciples and the crowd that has gathered around them, Jesus meets even more evidence of unbelief and misunderstanding. The disciples have proved unable to exorcise a possessed boy. They are apparently confused and frustrated, the scribes have seized the opportunity to start another argument, and the poor man who brought his son for healing is ready to give up.

If Jesus had waited to be born until all humanity, or even his chosen disciples, were able to reach perfect understanding and faith in him, the world would still be awaiting its Savior. But as the conclusion of the story makes clear, Jesus is not bound by our imperfect response. "I do believe," cries the father, "Help my lack of belief." That is enough for Jesus.

For reflection: Is my faith weak or uncertain at times? Have I experienced moments of total assurance and confidence in God followed by intense doubts and questioning? How does today's reading speak to me?

Prayer starter: Lord, I wish I could always stay on the "mountaintops" where I experience your presence and feel spiritually on fire. But I need you most in my valleys of doubt and unbelief. Be with me there.

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THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT by Kosmas Damianides



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How much it must grieve a father or a mother to see his or her child suffering without reason. To undergo pain and confusion -- for what? Where is God in our plight -- we may often ask ourselves. Where is God in all this pain and confusion?

Today we arrive at the fourth week of Lent. In today's

Gospel reading we heard of a father who was on his last hope. His son was possessed by a certain spirit from childhood, which was causing his son pain and confusion. Not even Jesus' disciples could cure the boy. He brought his son to Jesus, who upon hearing of the father's plight became exceedingly upset at the whole crowd and expressed these strong and direct words "Oh you faithless generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you." The Child was immediately brought close to Jesus and the spirit convulsed him instantly. As we know the child was eventually healed. But at what price one may ask? The father accepted and confessed his unbelief and beseeched God with tears to make his faith complete? This is the price, the fulfillment of our faith --- paid by Christ himself yet we must pray and beseech Him as well.

It is perhaps important to stress here that this miracle account nowhere refers to the spirit by any title such as demon, or devil. It is perhaps because this spirit is in reference to the spirit of this world, the enemy of Christ. It is the spirit of this generation well rooted in society, it is passed on to our children like a virus. Brethren remember these words well --- it is the spirit of this generation which throws our youth about like the child with the spirit we heard earlier today. It smashes them to the ground, it throws them into the fire to be burnt, it throws them into the water to be drowned --- today its drugs, alcohol, gambling, anything to distort the image and likeness of God, within them.

This spirit has a very old history going way back to primordial Man, Adam and Eve. It is firmly established and can not come out by anything --- except, as our Lord instructed Moses, as our Lord instructed his disciples, as our Lord instructs us today, by beseeching God through prayer and fasting.

"Why could we not cast it out", his disciples asked their master in shame. We also must ask why can't we cast this spirit out from our lives and our children's lives?

Brethren, because as our Lord tells us "This kind can come out by nothing except prayer and fasting". This is the key to contrite repentance. this twofold formula which treads on the head of this serpent of old and yields our first step towards heaven --- contrite repentance.

It is no coincidence then that the first and second steps of Saint John's 30 chapter book "**THE LADDER - (OF DIVINE ASCENT)**" are concerned with the renunciation of this life, this world we live in and detachment from all it's pleasures. We honor Saint John of the Ladder today as a great Saint of our

church who reminds us that going to heaven is not as easy as getting into an elevator and pressing a button. On the contrary, it is a long and hazardous climb which is impossible to scale fully unless we beseech God for assistance. May God grant us all fullness of faith, peace and joy on our climb to heaven --- Amen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFRIGERATORS/FREEZERS – Please have all personal items out of the refrigerators by the end of the day on Sunday, March 30. WE need all the storage space that we can get.

NO STORAGE OF PURCHASES IN THE REFRIGERATORS/FREEZERS – during the Bazaar. Please bring your own cooler as the space is needed for the Bazaar.

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.

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 30 - David and Eve Lazaration

April 6 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

April 13 - Kathy and Michael Chalfont

April 20 - Sandy Cramer

April 27 - Sonya Patronik

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 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

April 27 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2025

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)

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

May 11 - Thomas Sulpizi

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!!

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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
Week of May 12 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi

Orthodox Clergy Lenten Services

All Services 4PM
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., 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

OUR HOLY WEEK AND PASKA SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Hours
9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour – Easter Egg Hunt
5:00 PM – Lenten Vespers

Holy and Great Monday – April 14

Sts. Peter and Paul

7:00 AM – Matins
6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

April 19 Holy and Great Tuesday – April 15

Sts. Peter and Paul

7:00 AM – Matins
6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Holy and Great Wednesday – April 16

Sts. Peter and Paul

7:00 AM – Matins
8:00 AM – Presanctified Liturgy
St. Nicholas – Dover, DE
2:00 PM – Anointing of the Sick
Sts. Peter and Paul
7:00 PM – Anointing of the Sick

Holy and Great Thursday – April 17

7:00 AM – Matins
7:30 AM – Vespers/Liturgy of St. Basil
6:00 PM – 12 Gospels

Holy and Great Friday – April 18

Saints Peter and Paul

8:00 AM – Royal Hours
Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD
1:00 PM – Vespers/Shroud
St. Nicholas – Dover, DE
4:00 PM – Vespers/Shroud
Sts. Peter and Paul
7:00 PM – Vespers/Shroud
9:00 PM – Jerusalem Matins

Holy & Great Saturday –

Saints Peter and Paul

8:00 AM – Vesper/Liturgy St. Basil
Holy Trinity - Whaleyville
4:00 PM – Service at the Tomb -
Resurrection Matins Liturgy
Bless Baskets
Sts. Peter and Paul
11:00 PM – Service at the Tomb
Resurrection Matins

Sunday, May April 20

Resurrection of Our Lord

12 Midnite – Divine Liturgy
Bless Baskets – Coffee Hour
St. Nicholas
8:00 AM – Resurrection Matins
Divine Liturgy – Bless Baskets
Saints Peter and Paul
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy –
Agape Vespers
Bless Baskets – Coffee Hour

A "RECIPE" FOR A SUCCESSFUL PRAYER LIFE

While Great Lent is often looked upon as being a time of increased prayer, it must be pointed out that prayer is ALWAYS an essential element in our spiritual lives. What is prayer? By definition, it is "communion with God." Prayer can take several forms. There are prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of worship & prayers of petition.

The power of prayer cannot be matched by any other force. When the Apostles questioned Christ concerning why they could not cast out a demon that was possessing a young boy, the Lord responded that such things could only be accomplished through PRAYER & FASTING. On another occasion, Jesus had this to say about prayer: "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask for when you pray, believe that you will receive them, & you will have them."

There are several key ingredients to a successful prayer life. First, we must pray with FAITH. We must certainly believe that God CAN help us & answer our prayers.

Next, we must pray PERSISTENTLY. How impatient we are with our prayers! We must learn not to give up if our prayers are not answered immediately. Remember the Canaanite woman, who relentlessly pursued the Lord until He granted her request? She would not take "no" for an answer!

Finally, we must pray with HUMILITY. We must never forget that God is our FATHER & we are His CHILDREN. He is the MASTER & we are the SERVANT. Surely, Christ's own example while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane should indelibly mark this in our mind. What were His words? NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE! Rest assured that the Lord hears all of our prayers. May this intimate conversation with God be an important part of every day for us.