

SAIN

GREGORY

PALAMAS



Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

1406 Philadelphia Pike

Wilmington, DE 19809

www.sspeterandpauluoc.org

www.orthodoxdelaware.net



Father Stephen Hutnick

(302) 798-4455

E-mail: otche@aol.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 31, 2024
Volume 60: Number 13
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of March 31 – April 7, 2024

Celebrating our 97th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, March 31 – 2nd Sunday of the Fast – Orthodox Sunday – Tone 2

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

12:00 Noon – Lenten Vespers

4:00 PM – Our Lady of Sitka Icon (St. Herman 1855 Middletown Rd., Glen Mills, PA)

4:00 PM – Lenten Vespers – Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church – Wilmington, DE

Monday, April 1

6:00 PM – Bazaar Wrap-up Meeting (All are invited to attend)

Tuesday, April 2

7:00 PM – Bible Study

Wednesday, April 3

7:00 AM – Matins

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, April 5

7:00 AM – Matins

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy – Perpetual Memory

Saturday, April 6 – All Souls

8:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

Service for the Departed

6:00 PM – Great Vespers for the Feast

Sunday, April 7 -Feast of the Annunciation– 3rd Sunday of the Fast – Holy Cross – Tone 3

8:30 AM - Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

12:00 Noon – Lenten Vespers

4:00 PM – ST. Vladimir OCA, 912 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ

SCRIPTURAL READINGS

2nd Sunday of the Fast – Matins: Luke 24:36-53; Liturgy: Hebrews 1:10–2:3; Mark 2:1-12
To St. Gregory: Hebrews 7:26 - 8:2; John 10:9-16

Monday - Sixth Hour: Isaiah 8:13-9:7; Vespers: Genesis 6:9-22; Proverbs 8:1-21.

Tuesday - Sixth Hour: Isaiah 9:9-10:4; Vespers: Genesis 7:1-5; Proverbs 8:32-9:11.

Wednesday - Sixth Hour: Isaiah 10:12-20; Vespers: Genesis 7:6-9; Proverbs 9:12-18.

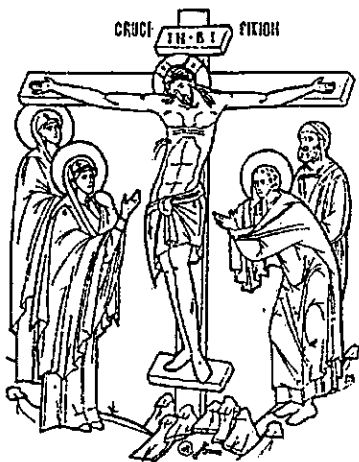
Thursday - Sixth Hour: Isaiah 11:10-12:2; Vespers: Genesis 7:11-8:3; Proverbs 10:1-22.

Friday - Sixth Hour: Isaiah 13:2-13; Vespers: Genesis 8:4-21; Proverbs 10:31-11:12.

Saturday - Hebrews 10:32-38; Mark 2:14-17; for the Departed: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17;
John 5:24-30 Great Vespers: . Genesis 28:10-17; Ezechiel 43:27-44:4; Exodus 3:1-8;

Third Sunday of the Fast - Feast of the Annunciation: Matins: Luke 1:39-46; 56. Feast:
Hebrews 2:11-18; Luke 1:24-38. Day: Matins: John 21:15-25; Liturgy: Hebrews 4:14-5:6;
Mark 8:34-9:1.

Second Sunday of the Great Fast



With the relief of modern medicines and the sophisticated techniques of surgery, we are finding it all the more difficult to realize and accept the fact that illness and disease in the world is a result of our sinful nature. If we don't think that there is a connection between sin and suffering, we can reflect on our own pattern of life and try to remember when was the last time we went to Confession and Communion before a scheduled hospital stay, or before we went out to face the tension of a job interview, or before we made an important decision in our life? We all desire as many graces as possible during final exams, but did we receive Confession

and Communion before the semester started? Our Israelite ancestors clearly explained it to us with the creation account in the Book of Genesis which is handed down to us. God created us with the free will to love Him and He created the world and the Universe for us to respect and enjoy. However, people soon began to turn away from God. They began to lose their cautious respectfulness of the world and their enjoyment of Creation was taken over by misery, despair and tiredness.

Sinners is the act of turning away from God and His ways; trying to do things on our own. When we sin or turn away from God, we turn away from our source of strength and life. We become weak and paralysis takes over; not only physically and mentally, but worse yet, spiritually. However, this sinful character of mankind

is something which we all share in common and so it takes a group effort to bring ourselves and one another back to the Source of life. But we must remember that we each have to do our own fair share of the effort. And our fair share means using the full power which God has given us.

The men who carried the mat of their friend in the Gospel share the burden of his paralyzed life. They not only brought him to the building where Christ was present, but they also shared his faith and made every effort to bring him directly into the presence of Christ. Great things can be accomplished through faith and if we want to come closer to God and follow His ways bad enough, we can find ways to do so. Jesus saw that they had a sincere faith and desire to become well again and so the first thing he did was to get to the root of the problem and forgive his sins to heal that gap between the man and God. After his sins were forgiven and a new life was given to the paralytic. Christ told him to pick up his mat and go home; to return to his family and friends, show them what God had done for him, and live the new life which he had received.

Perhaps in our own lives we may have fallen into the bad habit of leaving the confessional feeling like we just left a car wash with our old car all cleaned and polished. This is wrong. Rather than leaving like an old car, cleaned and polished, we should leave as if we received a completely brand new car which has never been driven before.

Through the forgiveness of our sins we receive a completely brand new life. All past suffering and anguish should be forgotten and, through Communion, We receive the strength to face future burdens and Christian tests of courage and faith.



REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

In today's reading Jesus shows that there are parallels between sickness and sin, between healing and forgiveness.

By healing the man's paralysis with just a word (verses 11-12), Jesus demonstrates that he has God's power to cure, and thus God's authority to forgive. The visible healing of the man's body is evidence that an invisible healing of the man's relationship with God has taken place. The healing shows that forgiveness is not just words. When he forgives us, something really happens. This is good news for us. When we look at our stubborn patterns of sin, we know that we need more than nice words and positive thinking: we really need changing!

In the second incident Jesus speaks of himself as a doctor who has arrived to treat sinners (verse 17). Sin, then, must be a kind of sickness. Jesus is saying that he has come to heal the diseases of mind and heart that we contract through our sins.

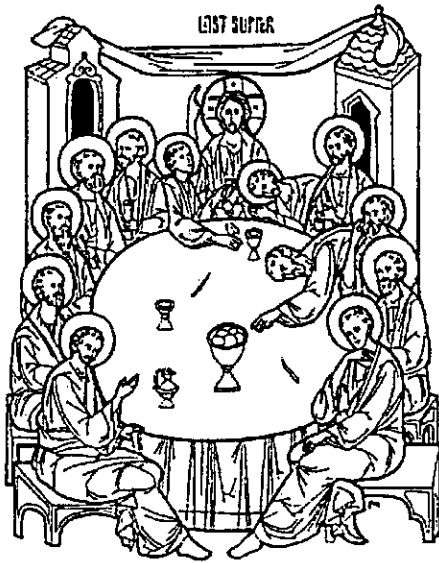
Physical sicknesses are not only an evil in themselves; they also provide images of the effects of sin. Leprosy, for example (1:40-42), an incurable disease that cut the sufferer off from other people, gives us a picture of the living death that sin is. Paralysis gives us a picture of the proud heart that is unmoved by compassion, epilepsy of the sometimes wild instability of sin, blindness of the inability to see who Jesus is.

By the same token, Jesus' healings give us pictures of what he can do in our minds and hearts when we turn to him repentantly in faith.

For reflection: It is easy to be more concerned about physical complaints than about the pride and self-concern and resentment and other sicknesses in our hearts.

Prayer starter: Lord Jesus, you see to the depths of my being you diagnose all my ills. Heal me as you alone know I need to be healed. Free me to love you and serve you.

SERMON FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST



When Leonardo da Vinci was painting his masterpiece, "The Last Supper", he selected as the person to sit for the character of Jesus a young man, Pietri Bandinelli by name. Pietri was a gentle and kind person who was connected with the Milan cathedral as a chorister. Years passed before the great picture was near completion. There was only one character left to finish - Judas Iscariot. Leonardo noticed a young man in the streets of Rome who would be perfect as a model. His shoulders were far bent toward the ground and he had a cold, hardened, evil expression on his face. He would be perfect for the painting of Judas.

When in the studio, the model began to look around as if recalling incidents of years gone by. Finally, he turned and with a sad look in his eyes at the

realization of the change that had taken place, he said, "Maestro, I was in this studio twenty-five years ago. It was I who sat as the model for Christ."

Today's Gospel shows how much our lives change over time. Last Sunday we heard that all of us are called to be disciples of Christ and that through our example, we can bring others to believe because of the faith that we exhibit. Today, the message changes. We are shown that all of us as sinners need forgiveness. We see this through the example of the paralytic who is brought to Jesus to be healed. When the Lord saw the faith in this man as well as the faith of his friends, He said, "My child, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:6). With these words, those around Jesus began to murmur, "Who does he think he is forgiving sins? Only God can forgive sins!"

Isn't it strange that when we are ill we run to the doctor for advice and medicine - even when it is the smallest of problems! But we use every excuse in the book so that we do not have to face our own sinfulness. As soon as the word "sin" is mentioned, we become uncomfortable. We don't want to seek help, we don't want to get advice, we don't want to seek a cure. We decide that we will wait for another time.

And yet, we never think of the consequences. It is harder to treat a neglected physical disease, even for the best doctor. It often remains incurable. Therefore, to preserve life, when our bodies become pained and weak we seek help.

One thing that we do not realize is that the sickness of the spirit is worse and more dangerous than not attending to a sickness of the body. Sin is not something which is always painful or makes us weak. On the contrary, sin can be pleasant. Before sin can be wiped out by repentance, it often blinds us so that we do not consider the peril, but actually makes us feel quite happy. Sin without repentance first turns into a habit; and habit turns into second nature. Then, even if a person wants to get rid of it, he doesn't have the strength. While a tree is young, a single man can uproot it without much effort, but when it has grown man-size, it can no longer be uprooted by a single man, sometimes not even by several.

But we should not despair - we need repentance. To repent means to be aware of the guilt in our hearts and to recognize that we have insulted our Heavenly Father by opposing His will and not living up to His commandments.

The power of the Holy Mystery of Confession is great and there is no sin too big for its healing power. The mercy of God is boundless to a repentant sinner. Only in repentance will we receive the forgiveness of sins. But when we return to God in repentance, we too will hear the voice of Jesus saying, "My child, your sins are forgiven." Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Michael Synczyszyn, 4/1 .May God grant him a very happy birthday and keep him for many, happy & blessed years!

BAZAAR NEWS – Again, special thanks to all who made this year's Bazaar such a great success. The gross total was \$35,831 and the net profit: \$30,002.

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.

EASTER EGG HUNT – will take place for our youth on Sunday, April 28th after the Divine Liturgy. Please register with either Pani Elizabeth or Olena Smith. Thanks.

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.

DONATIONS (CREDIT CARDS) ACCEPTED – for those who are interested, we can accept donations to the Church through credit cards. See Mark Andreas for details.

MEETINGS

PARISH BOARD – Tuesday, April 9 @ 6:30 PM

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

March 31 – John Plachuta and Linda Hntow

April 7 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow

April 14 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

April 21 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

April 28 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of April 1 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of April 8 - Mark & Laura Andreas

Week of April 15 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of April 22 – John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of April 29 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi

Week of May 6 - Nancy Hlwiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of May 13 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS

Friday, May 3 – Good and Holy Friday

Sunday, May 5 – Pascha

Saturday, May 11 – Visit Cemeteries

Sunday, May 12 – Mother's Day Dinner

Saturday, June 8 – Hall Rented

Saturday, June 29 – Wine Tasting Event 5PM – 8PM

Sunday, June 16 – Father's Day Dinner

Monday, July 1 – Apostles' Fast

Sunday, July 14 – Patronal Dinner

Saturday, July 20 – Hall Rented

Saturday, August 3 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, November 2 – Fall Bazaar

Tuesday, November 26 – Community Thanksgiving Service – Atonement Methodist

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 31 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick
April 7 – Linda Hnatow
April 14 – John Plachuta
April 21 - Andrew Duncan
April 28 - Thomas Sulpizi
May 5 - Jean Roeth

ICON OF OUR LADY OF SITKA, ALASKA – is visiting ST. Herman Orthodox Church, 1855 Middletown Rd., Glen Mills, PA Sunday, March 31 @ 4PM

UOL LENTEN RETREAT – Basilian Spirituality Center 710 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, PA Saturday, April 6 – Retreat will focus on Confession – Speakers: His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony and Father Anthony Perkins. Early Bird Rate – Adults: \$40; (\$50 after March 27) \$30 for Adolescents (ages 13-18) (\$40 after March 27) Children \$20 (7 -12) \$30 after March 27) Registration includes breakfast, lunch and snacks. For more info: Oleh or Natalie at nsufler@aol.com.

FAMILY LENTEN RETREAT – Holy Ghost Orthodox Church, 70 Holy Ghost Way, Phoenixville, PA 19460 Saturday, April 6 from 9:30 AM – 5 PM, “Exodus from the World : A Scriptural Life” Speaker Fr. William Bennett & “The ABC’s of Orthodoxy” Speaker FR. Matthew Stagon/ Donation: Adults - \$25; Students: \$20 & Children: 6-12 \$10. Register online by March 25th <https://www.holyghostphoenixville.org/retreat>

PASKA ORDER FORM – ORDER BY APRIL 21

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

Name _____

() With Raisins () Without Raisins

**Please give to Father Stephen or Kathy Duncan with payment
Paskas will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, April 28**

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 John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Gerald Ozlanski, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Father Michael Zaparyniuk, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Pani Matka Oksanna Bazylevsky, Pain Matka Marianne Ozlanski, Matka Annette Zaparyniuk, , Alicia, Nerry, Mykola, Brennan, Henry, Deborah, Galina, Dolores, Julian, Madison, Maria, Marie, Matt, Michele, Mykola, Penelope, Rita, Ryan, Jonathan Angelo, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Joyce Bendoakas, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Irene Billon, James Bolton, Maria Borowenski, Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, Thomas Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Kathy Chalfont, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, William Dewhurst, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Margaret Durell, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Mary Eagleton, 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, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Volodymyr Krasnopera, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Ron Lazaration, 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, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry, Bernice & 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, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, David Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, John Serth, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Kimberly 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, Michael Tilson, 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, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook.

“ENLIGHTEN MY DARKNESS, O LORD”

The Second Sunday of Lent is dedicated to the memory of a saint that may be described as a “*mysterious mystic*”: **St. Gregory Palamas**. Gregory was born in 1296 A.D. and received his secular education in Constantinople. His father was a prominent official in the Emperor's court, but Gregory chose to devote his life to serving a Heavenly King rather than a temporal one. At the age of 20, he entered a monastery on Mt. Athos, and was ordained to the priesthood 10 years later.

Gregory Palamas became part of a controversial monastic movement called “*hesychasm*.” Hesychasm called for its followers to embrace a life of silence and contemplative prayer. It taught that through fasting, rigorous bodily discipline and repetition of the Jesus Prayer, man can know God in an intimate way. For years, the only words uttered by St. Gregory were: “*Enlighten my darkness, O Lord*,” as he sought to know His Creator with all of his being.

Although he would have been content to remain on Mt. Athos for the rest of his life, Gregory was appointed Archbishop of Thessalonica in 1347 A.D. His views on theological matters came under fierce attack by his enemies, even causing him to be imprisoned for heresy on several occasions. Gregory's positions eventually became universally accepted by the entire Holy Orthodox Church, and today, Gregory Palamas is extolled as a “*Light of Orthodoxy, a teacher of the Church and an invincible champion of theologians*.”

Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord in 1359 A.D. He was canonized a saint only 9 years after his death.

Icon by Austin Kachek - Manville, NJ

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