

*Icons are to be Venerated;  
God alone is to be served in Faith*



## **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; 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Ministry

**March 9 , 2025**  
**Volume 61: Number 10**  
**Schedule of Services and Activities**  
**Week of March 9 - 16, 2025**

Sunday, March 9– 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Fast – Orthodox Sunday – Tone 4

8:30 AM – Confessions

9:10 AM –Prayers before Communion

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful - Procession with the Icons

Panakhyda: Keyanna Coates (7 Yrs.) - KiyShawna Lloyd

4:00 PM – Orthodox Sunday Vespers (St. Sophia 900 Trooper Road, Jeffersonville. PA)

Tuesday, March 11

6:30 PM – Parish Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 12

8:00 AM – Baking Bread

6:00 PM - Aldersgate Methodist 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington

Thursday, March 13

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

7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Friday, March 14

7:00 AM – Matins

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, March 15

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD)

Sunday, March 16– 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Fast – St. Gregory Palamas -Tone 5

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 Albanian 9230 Old Bustleton  
Road, Philadelphia)

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday of Orthodoxy - Matins: Luke 24:1-12; Liturgy: Hebrews 11: 24-26; 32-12:2; John 1: 43 - 51

Monday - Isaiah 4:2-5:7 Genesis 3:21-4:7; Proverbs 3:34-4:22

Tuesday - Isaiah 5:7-16 Genesis 4:8-15; Proverbs 5:1-15

Wednesday - Isaiah 1:19-2:3 Genesis 1:14-23; Proverbs 1:20-33

Thursday - : Isaiah 6:1-12 Genesis 5:1-24; Proverbs 6:3-20

Friday - Isaiah 7:1-14 Genesis 5:32-6:8; Proverbs 6:20-7:1

Saturday - Day: Hebrews 3:12-16; Mark 1:35-44; For the deceased: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 John 5:24-30

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Fast - Matins: Luke 24:12-35; Liturgy: Hebrews 1:10-2:3; Mark 2:1-12  
To St. Gregory: Hebrews 7:26 - 8:2; John 10:9-16

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### **"AS THE PROPHETS BEHELD, AS THE APOSTLES TAUGHT"**

For centuries, the First Sunday of Lent has been designated by our Holy Mother Church as the SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY." The term Orthodoxy was first used in connection with this Sunday in a fairly restricted sense, referring to the triumph of the Church over those who wanted to prohibit the use of icons in public or private devotions.

The controversy over sacred images raged from the early years of the eighth century until 843A.D. Despite the decree of the 7th Ecumenical Council in 787 A.D., which stated that it was proper to render HONOR, but not WORSHIP to icons, it was not until the Empress Theodora summoned a Synod to Constantinople on the first Sunday of Lent in 843 A.D. that this issue, was finally resolved. Icons were brought back to churches with great pomp and ceremony, thus inaugurating an annual commemoration of this important event.

In today's Church, the significance of the Sunday of Orthodoxy has been expanded to commemorate the preservation of all her dogmas and doctrines against heretical teachings. The Synodikon for the Sunday of Orthodoxy, a declaration of the 7th Ecumenical Council affirming the truths of the Orthodox Faith, sums up the spirit of this day in its final verses: THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE APOSTLES. THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE FATHERS. THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE ORTHODOX. THIS IS THE FAITH THAT HAS ESTABLISHED THE UNIVERSE."

**Sunday of Orthodoxy: Assembly of Bishops 2025**  
**Friday, February 28, 2025**

**Sunday of Orthodoxy 2025**

**Encyclical**

Dearly beloved faithful in Christ,

Each year on the first Sunday of Great Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we lift our voices and our hearts in joyful remembrance of the restoration of the holy icons to their rightful place in the life of the Church. Today, we celebrate triumphally and with humility the resulting Unity of the Orthodox Church manifested through this decision of the 7th Ecumenical Council that met in Nicaea in 787, under the aegis of Byzantine Empress Irene and, subsequently, the definitive Restoration of Holy Icons in Constantinople on the First Sunday of Great and Holy Lent in 843, henceforth known as Orthodoxy Sunday, under the patronage of the Byzantine Regent, Saint Theodora, and, the Ecumenical Patriarch, Saint Methodios the Confessor. Now, here in the United States of America, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops is tasked with preserving, manifesting, and promoting this same mystery of Unity exemplified and confessed with courage by the Saints so long ago. Thus, inspired by the same sense of joy, witness and responsibility "Assembly of Bishops Sunday" is now recognized throughout the country in conjunction with the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul cries out across the ages with a message that still speaks to our hearts today: "I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). This powerful pericope crossed with the example of restoration celebrated on the Sunday of Orthodoxy inspires us to always rise above division and to stand together in the unshakable love of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Indeed, the restoration of the holy icons is the restoration of unity through the victory of faith over fear, of salvation over condemnation, of a God incarnate over an unknown deity. Unity prevails when we all open up our hearts and minds in selfless love, transformed by grace in the mystery of Christ. Just as we venerate icons, we too become icons to one another, united in one body, that is the Church, just as the Saints of the 8th and 9th Centuries chose to stand firm, witnessing God's glory. Thus, let us be challenged by Saint Paul's words by being "united in the same mind and the same judgement." Let us not harden our differences but rather embrace what unites us in Christ.

As we celebrate Assembly of Bishops Sunday – along with the Sunday of Orthodoxy – we encourage you all to learn about the Ministries of the Assembly as well as to support our sincere efforts for Orthodox Christian Unity through the steadfast and generous gifts of your time, talent, and treasure.

With Paternal love in Christ and prayers for a blessed Lenten journey, on the 9th of March, 2025.

Archbishop Elpidophoros, Chair  
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Metropolitan Saba, Vice-Chair  
Antiochian Orthodox Church

Archbishop Michael  
Treasurer

Metropolitan Gregory  
Secretary

Bishop Irinej  
Serbian Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Nicolae  
Romanian Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Joseph  
Bulgarian Orthodox Church

Bishop Saba  
Georgian Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Tikhon  
Orthodox Church in America



## THE GREAT FAST: Becoming Living Icons

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church would have us commemorate the victory over Iconoclasm and the restoration of the veneration of Icons in Constantinople in 843. Why? Because Icons are symbols of the purpose and meaning of this earthly existence. We are here, for whatever amount of time allotted to become living "Icons" of our living God.

There are several different ways that Orthodox Christians speak about Icons. First, it is frequently said that Icons are "portals" or "windows" into the fourth dimension - the Kingdom of God. Through them we catch a glimpse of what is to come. Second, many speak about Icons being "mirrors" that reflect the Divine Life within a person. Third, Icons are the roadmaps or blueprints of what we are to become - people that are transformed into "Temples of God".

The unique thing about Icons is that while the personages they represent look human, they don't necessarily look real. This is the way the church indicates the result of "transformation" or when we "Reform your lives!" as we are directed by Jesus: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand".

What is repentance all about? What happens when we truly "repent" or reform our lives?

Repentance brings about a change in the way we live and behave. In Greek the word *metanoia* is used to indicate what happens to a person who takes time to work on their spiritual life and to repent.

What happens when we begin to live and behave in a different manner? When we act differently we, believe it or not, even begin to look different. To become living Icons of God means that we live in such a manner that our belief in God as a loving God shows forth for all to see. We experience/see this in several simple ways:

- ❖ We make an honest attempt not to judge others;
- ❖ We are more apt to be mellow and accepting of others.
- ❖ We put more things in God's hands and have less need to control things.
- ❖ We understand that there is not one right but many right ways to do things.
- ❖ It is more important to make others feel accepted and loved than to make them feel wrong.

Actually, this is just the beginning of a long, long list. If we truly *repent* and *change our lives* it means that we begin living, in a real way, the law of Jesus: *Love your neighbor as yourself*.

So our goal in life is to change our natural behavior into Christ-like behavior. This will result in our appearance changing and us becoming "Living Icons", that is, mirrors of God within us.

Lent is a time dedicated to making repentance or "metanoia" a real part of our life. How are you using this period? Is your life any different during this time? If not, why not? Are you making an honest effort to keep Lent?

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - is expressed to Sophia Beaudean, 3/10; Ella Claire Roch, 3/10 & Oksana Iwaskiw, 3/12 . May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

**UOL SOUPS FOR THE FAST** – This Sunday's selection is tomato soup \$10/quart.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

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

March 9 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik

March 16 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow

March 23 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow

March 30 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

April 6 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

**TENTATIVE CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2025**

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

Saturday, April 5 – Spring Bazaar

Sunday, April 20 – Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, May 11 – Mother's Day Dinner

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

Sunday, July 13 – Patronal Feast Day

Saturday, August 2 – UOL Flea Market

**MEETINGS - PARISH BOARD** – Tuesday, March 11 @ 6:30 PM



## READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 9 – Jean Roeth  
March 16 - Andrew Duncan  
March 23 – Thomas Sulpizi  
March 30 – Pani Elizabeth Hutnick  
April 6 - Linda Hnatow  
April 13 - John Plachuta  
April 20 - Thomas Scholz

## CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of March 3 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly  
Week of March 10 - Mark & Laura Andreas  
Week of March 17 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson  
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

## GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 9 - Kathy and Michael Chalfont  
March 16 - Sandy Cramer  
March 23 - Sonya Patronik  
March 30 - David and Eve Lazaration  
April 6 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

### Orthodox Clergy Lenten Services

All Services 4PM

Sun., March 9 – St. Sophia GO Church  
900 Trooper Road, Jeffersonville, PA

Sun., March 16 – Sts. Peter & Paul Albanian  
9230 Old Bustleton Road, Philadelphia

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 28<sup>th</sup> St., Philadelphia

### Community Lenten Services

All Services 6:00 PM

Wed., March 12 – Aldersgate Methodist  
2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington

Wed., March 19 – Sts. Peter and Paul  
Here

Wed., March 26 - Open

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

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

## 2025 MAKING PYROHY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR BAZAAR APRIL 5

Saturday, March 29. Making Holubtsi – Saturday, March 22

**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 Borowski, 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 Farrell, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, 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, Billl 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



**1. FAST WITH AND FOR UKRAINE** – As we enter the sacred season of Lent, we dedicate our fasting not only for our own spiritual renewal but also as a prayerful offering for Ukraine, its people, and its defenders.

**2. LENTEN REPENTANCE AS A PATH TO VICTORY** – Just as Lent calls us to personal repentance, Ukraine seeks deliverance from suffering. We unite our prayers with the cry for justice, truth, and peace in the land of our ancestors.

**3. BEARING THE CROSS WITH UKRAINE** – The suffering of Ukraine is a reflection of the Cross of Christ. As we walk the Lenten journey, we embrace the call to carry this burden in solidarity through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

**4. ALMSGIVING AS AN ACT OF MERCY FOR UKRAINE** – This Lent, our charitable giving should extend to those affected by war: the wounded, the displaced, and the grieving families. Every act of mercy strengthens Ukraine's spirit and witness.

**5. PRAYER FOR THE TRIUMPH OF LIGHT OVER DARKNESS** – Just as Pascha is the victory of life over death, we fervently pray that Ukraine, too, will see the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and peace over war.

**6. STRENGTH IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE** – Great Lent is a time of spiritual battle against sin and temptation. As Ukraine fights for freedom, we fight in prayer, lifting up the nation's soldiers and civilians who endure trials beyond words.

**7. THE EXILE AND HOMECOMING OF UKRAINE'S PEOPLE** – Many Ukrainians have been forced into exile. As we reflect on Christ's journey through the wilderness, we remember those seeking refuge and pray for their safe return.

**8. RESURRECTION AND HOPE FOR UKRAINE** – Even in the darkest nights of suffering, Lent reminds us that Pascha will come. We hold fast to the promise of resurrection, trusting that Ukraine will rise again in freedom and peace.

**9. THE LENTEN CALL TO HUMILITY AND SERVICE** – The humility of Christ inspires us to serve those in need. We dedicate this season to supporting Ukraine through advocacy, humanitarian aid, and heartfelt prayer.

**10. "BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS" – PRAYING FOR A JUST PEACE** – As we strive for inner peace in Lent, we also pray for a just peace in Ukraine, where truth and righteousness will prevail.

May this Lent be a time of deep spiritual renewal, personal transformation, and steadfast support for Ukraine in its time of trial.



## SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY: A DAY OF TRIUMPH

The importance of the use and veneration of icons by the Orthodox Church is well-documented today. There was a time, however, when their use was forbidden. Those who opposed the use of icons were referred to as “**iconoclasts**,” which literally means “**image breakers**.” This controversy raged for over 100 years, and was seemingly settled at the 7th Ecumenical Council, which convened in Nicea in 787 A.D. The Church Fathers decreed that the veneration of icons was a long standing tradition of the Church, and that this practice was not, in any way, in conflict with the Second Commandment, which directs us “**not to make unto ourselves any graven image**.”

The 7th Ecumenical Council, however, did not completely settle

this issue. The conflict over icons continued until 843 A.D. when a local council, led by Patriarch Methodios of Constantinople, established the 1st Sunday of Lent as a day of celebration of the “**Triumph of Orthodoxy**” and the return of holy icons to their rightful place in churches everywhere.

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is a celebration of all of the faithful men and women who struggled for the Faith in times of persecution. On this great day, all Orthodox Christians are called upon to remember the example of these holy ones and to renew our own commitment to Christ and His Church. We proudly proclaim today that the rich Orthodox Faith that we possess is truly “**THE FAITH OF THE APOSTLES . . . THE FAITH OF THE FATHERS . . . THE FAITH WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED THE UNIVERSE**.”