

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

May 24, 2020
Volume 56: Number 21
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of May 24 - 31, 2020
Celebrating our 93rd year of Service to the Lord

ALL SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON FACEBOOK & WEBPAGE

Sunday, May 24 – Sunday of the Man Born Blind – Tone 5

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful of All Three Parishes

**Pankahyda: Memorial Day – Remembering Our Parishioners Who Served
Their Country**

Panakhya: +Nina Kaliakin – 40th Day

Panakhya: +David Duncan

Panakhya: +Lynn Procak

Monday, May 25 – M E M O R I A L D A Y

Wednesday, May 27 – Leave-taking of Paskha

7:00 AM – Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy

Veneration of the Shroud

Thursday, May 28 – Ascension Thursday

7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Panakhya: +Georgia Pantelopoulos – 40th Day

Sunday, May 31 – Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council – Tone 6

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful of All Three Parishes

LAST COLOR BULLETIN COVER – Today will be the last color Bulletin Cover for a few weeks. Due to the corona virus, our print shop will be closing down for the safety of its workers. I shall be using copies of old Bulletin covers in the interim.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday of the Man Born Blind – Matins: John 20:11-18; Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34; John 9:1-38

Monday – Acts of the Apostles 17:1-15; John 11:47-57

Tuesday – Acts of the Apostles 17:19-28; John 12:19-36
Wednesday – Acts of the Apostles 28:22-28; John 12:36-47; Vespers: Isaiah 2:2-3; Isaiah 62:10-12; 63:1-3, 7-9; Zachariah 14:4, 8-11.

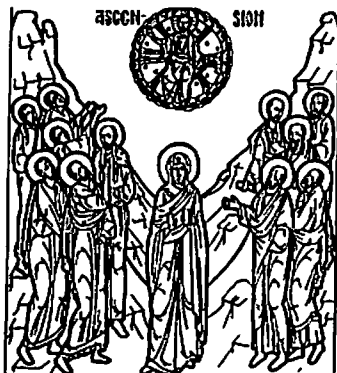
Ascension Thursday - Matins: Mark 16:9-20; Liturgy: Acts 1: 1-12; Luke 24:36-53

Friday – Third Finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist – Matins – Luke 7:17-30; Liturgy: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Matthew 11:2-15; Day: Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8; John 14:1-11

Saturday – Acts of the Apostles 20:7-12; John 14:10-21

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council – Matins: John 21:1-14; Liturgy: Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18; 28-36; John 17:1-13

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS AND OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE



After the Resurrection, Jesus did not come back to live among us as before. He now returned to the glory He had with the Father. This is especially evident in the Gospel of St. John where Jesus tells His disciples before His arrest, “I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father” (John 16:28). “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to Your Son, so that Your Son may glorify You” (John 17:1). Jesus is truly and physically risen, but He did not return to life in this world as did Lazarus, the son of the widow of Nain and the daughter of Jairus.

Each of the Gospel writers expresses this mystery in a different way. In Matthew, Jesus’ last words are “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me... I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matt. 28:18). Jesus did not return to live among us, but He is with us in power and Spirit. In the Gospel of John, the first action of the risen Jesus when He appears to His disciples is to give them the gift of the Holy Spirit (John 20:19-23). In the Gospel of Mark, “the Lord Jesus, after He spoke with them (the disciples) was taken into heaven & took His seat at the right hand of God” (Mark 16:19). Jesus is alone the true high priest whose role is to mediate between God & His people & to bring salvation. Those who function as priests on earth only do so in the power of the Holy Spirit, the gift of Jesus to His Church. The Epistle to the Hebrews echoes what Mark says,

"we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the majesty in heaven, a minister of the sanctuary & of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up" (Hebrews 8:1-2). St. Luke alone tells us that Jesus ascended on the 40th day (Acts 1:3) & describes the Ascension as Jesus being "taken up"(Luke 24:51) & "lifted up", disappearing into a cloud (Acts 1:9). As He was taken up, He was blessing His followers, a priestly action that He now performs from the right hand of the heavenly Father.

Because St. Luke says that the Ascension took place on the 40th day, this day has been kept by the Church to celebrate the glorification of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Just as the life of the earthly Jesus was transformed by glory, so also the lives of those who believe in Him are transformed by the Resurrection. Before the Resurrection, Jesus had a mission to the people of Israel. When a Canaanite woman - a foreigner - asked Christ to cure her daughter, He replied, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 15:24). After the Resurrection, our Lord tells His followers: "Go ... and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). St. Paul stated about 25 years later: "A;; of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is not male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27-28). The Gospel of the Risen Christ is for all people, without distinction of race, gender or status.

The great feasts of the Church year recall the mighty deeds that God has done on our behalf. For these deeds we return to Him glory and praise. However, the feasts are not only a historical commemoration of what happened in the past, but also tell us about our life of the Spirit today. By the love that Christ showed on the Cross and by His 3rd day Resurrection, the faithful who believe in Him are also transformed by love and are filled with life. This happens in the Mystery of Baptism ("you are clothed with Christ") which is renewed every time that we receive the Mystery of the Eucharist: the Body and Blood of Christ, Himself. On the Feast of the Ascension, we sing: "Ascending in glory today from the Mount of Olives, through Your great love, You lifted up our fallen nature and enthroned it with the Father on high... Therefore, serve Him in justice and holiness."

The spiritual life is not a private and lonely journey. The kingdom of God will be the restoration of Paradise. It will come about only when we will be able to treat everyone equally, without distinction of race or ethnicity or status or gender. God has created every human being and loves every person equally. He wishes all to come to salvation, and if we are to find Him in our own lives, and if we are to be united with Him, then we too must be at the service of our neighbor. We must see

in every person a fellow traveler on the road to unity with God. Our Lord has told us that we serve Him when we show kindness to each other, for "whatever you do for one of these least brothers of Mine, you do it for ME!" (Matt. 25:40).

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

"We cherish too, the Poppy red; That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies; That blood of heroes never dies."

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to 'Taps.'"

PLEASE REMEMBER WHAT THIS HOLIDAY IS ALL ABOUT – It is OK to have the Family Picnic and celebrate the holiday with your friends and loved ones. But please remember what this holiday is really about. Take the time to say a prayer for the repose of the souls of those brave men and women who gave their lives so that you and I might live in freedom. Many God grant rest to their souls and may their memory be eternal!

Today, we remember the following Parishioners who served in the Armed Forces:

Very Rev. Paul Hrynyshyn - Army
Leroy Aiken - National Guard
Morris Bijan - Navy
Michael Bilinski - Navy
John Bolinski - Army
Thomas Bringle
David Duncan - Army
David Gibas - Army
John Goodley - Army
Stephen Gula
Anne Hambiski (Johnson)
Michael Hambiski
Stanley Hambiski
Michael Hatz
Charles Heluck - Navy
Thomas Hlywak - Army
Basil Hlywiak - Army
Tim Hnatowski - Navy
John Hrynyshyn - Army
Walter Hrynyshyn - Army
Stephen Hrynyshyn - Army
Andrew Kapelus - Army Air Corps
Harry Kosowsky, Jr. - Air Force
Norman Kristic - Air Force
John Litchko - Army
John Macey - Army
John Macey, Jr. - Marines
Max Macey - Navy
Michael Macey - Navy
Nicholas Macey - Navy
William Maciey
Joseph Maier - Air Force
Albert Malinowski - Army

Oscar Orr - Army Air Force
Michael Ostafy
William Pastuzek
John Sass - Army
Charles Scully - Army
Anthony Serednicki
Philip Shweda
Charles Synczszyn
William Sukach - Army
William Sukach, Jr. - Air Force
Nels Thomas
Charles Tyrawsky - Marines
John Tyrawski - Army
Michael Tyrawski - Army
Steven Tyrawski - Navy
William Uranko

BLINDNESS TAKES MANY FORMS

Helen Keller, who became a famous author and lecturer despite being born deaf and blind, was once asked if she thought that there was anything worse than not having her sight. "Only one thing is worse than blindness," she replied, "and that is to have eyes and not see!" The truth of Helen Keller's words are painfully obvious in this morning's Gospel lesson. Christ encounters a man who has been blind from birth. Because of his handicap, the blind man is somewhat of an outcast. Even the Apostles question their Master, "Who sinned that this man should have been born blind?"

What is the reaction to Christ's miracle of giving sight to the blind man? Some of his neighbors express doubt that he is really the same person they knew as sightless. The Pharisees question him as they would a common criminal. The man's own parents distance themselves from him, refusing to get involved in the controversy. The eyes of everyone were blinded to the fact that the Lord had chosen the unfortunate man to be a means of showing His power.

Sadly, many of us who proclaim ourselves to be "Christians" do not see Jesus as being the **LIGHT OF THE WORLD**, stubbornly remaining mired in the darkness of our sins. May the words of the Kondakion for this Sunday remind us of our need to be illumined by our Savior: "I come to You, O Christ, like the man born blind from birth, and I cry to You with repentance: You are a radiant and glorious light to those who stumble in darkness."

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day! What thoughts come to your mind? What does the day mean to us and what do we remember? Just another "holiday"? Just a chance to take a day off from work and take the family for a ride, a picnic, with an all-day outing? Or is it an opportunity to spend the day on the golf course? What will we remember? Will we spend a few moments in silent thought and thanks for those who gave themselves that we might continue in the ways of democracy (which by the way, means a system of government that considers the individual, regardless of color, race or creed, important in the total scheme of things)? Or will we continue to thank God for our own position in life and forget that there is no such thing as a "privileged class"?

The story is told about an incident which occurred when the first Memorial Day was celebrated. A group of Washington D.C. women had asked the War Department for permission to put flowers on the soldier's graves in Arlington Cemetery. After much persuasion, permission was granted and on May 30th, the day designated, this was to be done. But a stern order was attached to the permission: No flowers were to be placed on the three hundred graves of the Confederate soldiers who were buried in a segregated

section of the cemetery. The ladies who had made the request obediently decorated all the other graves, omitting the Confederate graves. Then General James A. Garfield made the speech at Arlington. When the crowd had left, a high wind rose. The wind blew almost all the flowers from the Union soldiers' graves into the Confederate area. After that day the separation was never again repeated.

We Have The Majority

In today's world, God's Word and His commandments seem to be suffering a lot. Most people today believe that if everyone believes that black is white, then it must be so.

Isaac Asimov told a hilarious story about a Rabbi Feldman who was having trouble with his congregation; they couldn't agree on anything. The president of the congregation said, "Rabbi, this can't continue. There has to be a conference, and we have to settle all areas of dispute once and for all." The rabbi agreed.

At the appointed time the rabbi, the president, and ten elders met around a magnificent mahogany table in the conference room of the synagogue. One by one the issues were dealt with and on each issue, it became more and more apparent that the rabbi was a lonely voice in the wilderness. The president of the synagogue said, "Come, Rabbi, enough of this. Let's vote and allow the majority to rule." He passed out slips of paper and each man made his mark. The votes were collected and the president said, "You may examine them, Rabbi. It is eleven to one against you. We have the majority."

Offended, the rabbi rose to his feet and said, "So, now you think because of the vote that you're right and I'm wrong. Well, that's not so. I stand here," and he raised his arms impressively while looking heavenward, "and call upon the Holy One of Israel to give us a sign that I'm right and you're wrong."

No sooner were the words out of his mouth when there was a deafening clap of thunder and a brilliant flash of lightning that struck the mahogany table and cracked it in two. The room was filled with smoke and fumes, and the president and the elders were hurled to the floor. Surrounded by rubble the rabbi stood erect and untouched, his eyes and smile flashing with triumph. Slowly, the president lifted himself out of the rubble. His hair was singed, his glasses were hanging from one ear, his clothing was in disarray. Finally he said, "All right, eleven to two. But we still have the majority."

Right and wrong does not rest with the majority but with the Authority who is Christ. He is the One whom God has given authority over all people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to the following: Halyna Feleshchuk, 5/25; Tatiana Lipko, 5/28 & George Pantelopoulos, 5/28. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES – are offered to Kathy Duncan and her sons: Andrew, Jason and Adam and their families on the Falling asleep in the Lord of her husband and their father, the newly departed Servant of God, +David, on Wednesday, Funeral services will be private because of the virus. Let us pray asking God to place the soul of His newly departed servant, +David, in the abode of the Saints, where there is no pain, sorrow nor mourning but only life everlasting. Let us also pray for the family asking God to give them His strength in this, their hour of need.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Maria Borowenski – who was hospitalized this past week; Mildred (Myrophora) Christo, Doris Scully, and Deacon Adrian Mazur – who have been diagnosed with the covid 19 virus.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES – are offered to Jerry Procak and his family on the Falling asleep in the Lord of his wife this past week, the newly departed Servant of God, +Lynn. Let us pray asking God to place the soul of His newly departed servant, +Lynn, in the abode of the Saints, where there is no pain, sorrow nor mourning but only life everlasting. Let us also pray for the family asking God to give them His strength in this, their hour of need.

SOMETHING TO DO – during this stay at home time: gather your treasures for the UOL Flea Market which is still scheduled for Saturday, August 1st!!!

EXTRAORDINARY VIRTUAL PARISH BOARD MEETING – will take place this Tuesday at 6:30PM. The focus of this meeting will be the possibility of reopening the Church according to State and Hierarchical stipulations. More information as it is available.

PARISH BOARD MEETING – Tuesday, June 9th @ 6:30 PM (Zoom Meeting)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archimandrite Raphael, Father Vasili Andrejuk, Father Paul Bigelow, Father John Bohush, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Mark Leisure, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Victor Wronskyj, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Deacon Adrian, Pani Dobrodyka Lisa Weremedic, Mykola, Brennan, Deborah, Charles, Galina, Dolores, Julian, Madison, Michele, Mykola, Rita, Ryan, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Maria Borowenski Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, Thomas Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, George Burns, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Betty Charney, Mildred (Myrophora) Christo, Erik Colazo, Patricia Crystal, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Peter DiVirgilio, John Dmytryk, James Dudrick, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, James Garrett, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Rick Hastings, Celeste Heiser, Dolores Helms, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Anthony Hnатов, Daniel Holoviak, Caroline Humphrey, Richard Humphrey, Sally Hutnick, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Rosalie Ann Kane, Sandra Kasch, Thomas Kasprzak, Charles Kaszytski, Julia Kaszytski, Diane Keyser, Barbara Kirylic, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Emma Krasnopera, Volodymyr Krasnopera, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Paul Markow, Frederick McCarthy, Ronald Michel, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Michael Moroz, Linda Muldoon, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Ryan Pinkowicz, Valentina Plachuta, Maria Plumpton, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Alla Rudawsky, John Ruczhak, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Maria Russak, Anthony Saldutti, Dana Sargent, Doris Scully, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Tatiana Szwec, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Mariel Trembel, Anna Tur, Richard Twardus, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Peter Weremedic, Stephen Wienkowitz, Laura Worley, & James Zook.

"WHO SINNED THAT THIS MAN WAS BORN BLIND?"

The thought of someone being blind from birth touches even the hardest of hearts. Imagine never seeing a sunset, a field of flowers, a mountain range or a multitude of other natural wonders with which our Heavenly Father has blessed us.

With this in mind, today we commemorate the Sunday of the MAN BORN BLIND. It is touching to hear how our Lord gave him his sight. It is troubling, however, to note how the man was treated after his amazing good fortune!

Even before Christ performed this great miracle, the Apostles questioned their Master as to who was to blame for this man's handicap. Was it he, or his parents, who had sinned? The Lord explains that suffering should not be equated with sin! Throughout the course of normal events, misfortune invades all of our lives, giving God opportunities to work His Power through us.

How shameful the Pharisees act when confronted with this miracle. There is no joy expressed by them. Instead, they were indignant that Christ would do such a thing on the Sabbath! When the former blind man would not acknowledge that the Man who healed him was a "sinner," the Pharisees cast him out from their midst. Theirs was a more permanent "blindness."

The message of today's Gospel is clear: physical blindness is not nearly as bad as spiritual blindness. This is summarized beautifully in one of the verses from the Vespers for today: "I come to you, O Lord, with the eyes of my soul as blind as the eyes of the man born blind. In repentance, I cry to you: you are the brilliant light for all of those in darkness."