



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 17, 2019
Volume 55: Number 17
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of March 17 - 24, 2019

Celebrating our 92nd year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, March 17 – 1st Sunday of the Fast – Orthodox Sunday -Tone 1

8:30 – 9:00 AM – Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Procession with the Icons

Panakhya: +Vladislav Dronin (1 Yr. AN.) – Iryna and Daughters

Panakhya: +Vladimir, Lyubov, +Labrintsi, +Freda, +Ekaterina – Laura Davis

Coffee Hour

4:00 PM – Vespers – Saint Michael (OCA) – Wilmington

Monday, March 18

7:00 AM – Matins

9 – 11:00 AM – Pyrohy Orders

6:30 PM – Akathist to Our Lady, Softener of Evil Hearts

7:00 PM – Bible Study

Tuesday, March 19

7:00 AM – Matins

9 – 11:00 AM – Pyrohy Orders

Wednesday, March 20

6:00 PM – Community Lenten Service - Aldersgate Methodist Church

Thursday, March 21

7:00 AM – Matins

7:00 AM – Peeling potatoes

6:00 PM – Potato Balls

7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Friday, March 22

7:00 AM – Matins

7:00 AM – Making Pyrohy

1:00 – 3:00 PM – Pick Up

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy – Memorial Saturday

Sunday, March 24 – 2nd Sunday of the Fast – St. Gregory Palamas - Tone 2

8:30 – 9:00 AM – Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

4:00 PM – Vespers – Descent of the Holy Spirit Parish (Romanian) – Elkins Park, PA

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday of Orthodoxy - Matins: Luke 24:12-35; Liturgy: Hebrews 11: 24-26; 32-12:2; John 1: 43 – 51

Monday - 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

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

“AS THE PROPHETS HAVE BEHELD, AS THE APOSTLES HAVE TAUGHT”



Prior to ascending into heaven, Jesus Christ commanded His Apostles to “**GO AND TEACH ALL NATIONS**” imploring them to carry His Gospel “throughout all Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.” With these words, our Lord clearly established these faithful followers of His as being the **FOUNDATION** of His Church. The responsibility of the growth and success of His Divine Institution was entrusted to this humble group of disciples.

The Apostles met with opposition and persecution at every turn. Some feared their message. Others were often unable to comprehend it. Still others rejected it. The Apostles persevered passing on a rich legacy to the next generation of Christians that rose up and took their place when they reached the end of their earthly lives. They were truly doing the work of God and nothing could prevent Christ’s Church from taking root.

Throughout her glorious history, the Church has been tried and tested constantly. She has been attacked from outside her ranks by rival ideologies. She has been undermined from within by heretical movements that have frequently split and fragment the **ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH**. Still, the Church has weathered every “storm” and has withstood every external and internal crisis she has been forced to endure. The Church remains **TRIUMPHANT**.

The First Sunday of Lent draws attention to this. This day has been referred to as the “**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**” since 843 AD. Originally designated to commemorate the triumph of the Church over the Iconoclasts - those who wished to do away with the veneration of icons- this celebration has been expanded to include the remembrance of the victories that the Orthodox Church has achieved over all the heresies of the past.

The Synodikon for the Sunday of Orthodoxy, a declaration of the Seventh 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.**

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?

O Lord and Master of my life, keep away from me the spirit of discouragement, negligence, desire for power, and idle talk; (prostration).

Grant me, Your servant, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and charity; (prostration).

Yes, my Lord and King, grant me the ability to see my own sins and not to judge my brother, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (Prostration).

Sunday of Orthodoxy

by James Ross

As we begin the road to the feast of Pascha, each week we are given an image upon which to focus our attention. The commemoration for each of the Sundays in lent are like signs that show us the way we must go. They define the steps we take, so that with a repentant and humbled heart, we may enter into the joy of His holy Resurrection.

On the first Sunday in Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we are confronted with not only an image, but also the theology of Images. The image, not only representing a person, but bringing us face to face with the reality of personhood; the individual transformed in the image of Christ.

The Holy Church, on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, commemorates the Seventh Ecumenical Council and the restoration of the Holy Icons in 787 and 842, after more than one hundred years of iconoclast opposition. In the year 726, the emperor Leo III began the controversy by ordering the removal and destruction of all Icons in the empire. Basing his actions upon the prohibition against "graven images" in Exodus chapter twenty, he and many within the church felt that the use of icons was a slipping back into paganism. How could a church, which claimed to worship God in spirit and in truth, use material images in it's worship? Wouldn't that be contrary to the spiritual nature of God and our true worship of Him?

The Church, in Her response to these charges reminds us that through the incarnation God who is unseen, became Man who can be seen. The Creator of all, became a creature, that by His destruction of the power of death, all of creation might be redeemed and transfigured in His Image and glory. If one refuses to honor the Image of Christ, or of His Mother, or of the Saints, one may be in danger of denying the Incarnation that made possible the salvation and sanctification of all.

St. John of Damascus (+749), who defended proper veneration of the Icons wrote, "I adore the creature created as I am, adopting creation freely.... that He might elevate our nature and make us partakers of His divine nature." In other words, by virtue of the fact that God became flesh, not only can an image be made of Him, but that by venerating or honoring the image, my honor and worship pass on to God who is the prototype of the image. There is then no question of the worship of the icon, as it is only the "vehicle" of the honor paid to Christ.

After many years of destruction and persecution of the supporters of the Icons, the Seventh Ecumenical Council convened in Nicaea in 787 declaring that icons were to be used in Churches, and honored in the same way as we honor the Gospels and the Cross. The

fathers of the council reminded us that worship (latreia) is due only to God. However, we Venerate or honor the images of Christ or the saints as that which directs us to Him.

After a short period of further persecution beginning in 815 with Leo V, the Icons were finally restored permanently in 843 by the Empress

Theodora. This victory is celebrated on the first Sunday in Lent as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy". It is on this day, we are shown the first fruits, as it were, of Christ's death and resurrection. By His destruction of the kingdom of sin and death, we are able to share in His Divinity. This is an important fact that we need to reflect upon as we begin to engage ourselves in the Lenten struggle. Thus we are able to boldly proclaim, "This is the Faith of the apostles! This is the Faith of the fathers! This is the Orthodox Faith! This faith has established the universe!"

So, let us, spurred on by this joyful celebration, turn our attention to the task at hand; that purified by the spirit of repentance, we may truly share in the Paschal Feast of Faith.

Icon Meditation

by Fr. Dennis Kristof

The icon for this feast is filled with many figures and unless one knows a little about the historic situation this icon is depicting, sorting out the figures will be impossible!

Located centrally is a large icon of the Most Holy Birthgiver-of-God with her Son, the Incarnate Son of God. This emphasizes that belief in the necessity for icons is tied to the necessity of believing that God took on our human flesh and material form.

To the left of the icon are the bishops of the Church. The one closest, of course, is St. Methodios, Patriarch of Constantinople at the time when the images were restored. Other saints depicted are the various saints who suffered persecution by those who opposed the use of icons by Orthodox Christians.

On the right side of the icon are the members of the royal family who established their support of icons in worship in the Byzantine Empire. The woman wearing the crown is the Empress-Regent Theodora, mother of Emperor Michael III who is depicted as the small boy with a crown next to her. Though depicted as a boy, he was actually only one year old at this time, which is why his mother was ruling the Byzantine Empire in his place. They are surrounded by court officials behind them.

The many people to the rear of the main characters are various monks, nuns, and the populace of the Imperial City of Constantinople. It was mainly the monastics and common people who most fearlessly and staunchly defended the use of icons in Orthodox worship and life. The two angels to the rear of the central icon remind us that icons are "windows to heaven" which depict the material and spiritual realities to which we both strive towards, and already have present due to divine grace and the presence of God in our lives through His Holy Church.

As a precious adornment, the Church of Christ has received the venerable and holy icons. Celebrating now their triumphant restoration, she is made bright with grace and splendor, driving away all heretics. This hymn chanted at Vespers on the Eve of the First Sunday of the Great Fast calls upon us to celebrate the Triumph of Orthodoxy. For over a thousand years now, Orthodox Christians have been observing this Sunday of true belief and worship in recognition of the fact that the holy images, which had been destroyed by government edict during the 8th century, were once again restored.

Even though the Seventh Ecumenical Council had confirmed the legitimacy of the holy icons and defined their proper use in worship, various emperors, under the heretical concept of Iconoclasm, forbade the public use and veneration of holy images. It was not until March 11, 843, in Constantinople-some 56 years later-that Empress Theodora and Patriarch Methodios, in great public procession, returned the holy icons to their rightful and fitting place, consonant with the words of St. John of Damascus: [we] do not worship matter but the Creator of matter, Who for [our] sake became material and, through matter, effected [our] salvation.

In condemning material representations of Christ the iconoclasts in fact denied the key fact and wellspring of their very salvation: the Incarnation of the Son of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to the following: Konstantin Muntyanu, 3/20 & Tijana Beaudean, 3/23. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

SPECIAL THANKS - A NEW WHITE FREEZER – Alex and Michelle Czernik have donated a brand new white stand up freezer. We should really be able to make extra food for the Bazaar! May God reward your kindness a hundred fold!

UOL LENTEN SOUPS – will be available for purchase from March 17 – April 21. A list of the soups will be announced. Soups are sold at \$8.00 per quart. Order yours today!

SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE MACARONI AND CHEESE DINNER – Special thanks are offered to Linda Hnatow, Chairperson, and all who helped make last Sunday's Dinner such a great success! Thanks also to all who participated. Thanks also to our Boy Scout Troop #70 for supplying the cake. May God reward your kindness a hundred fold!

SPECIAL THANKS – We would like to also offer special thanks to Nancy Hlywiak, Choir Director, and our Parish Choir for making last Wednesday's community Lenten Service such a beautiful experience. Also, special thanks to Kathy Duncan, Chairperson, and all who helped make the Lenten Dinner such a great success! May God reward your kindness a hundred fold!

MEETINGS - MINISTRIES

UOL GENRAL MEETING – Saturday, March 30 @10:30 AM – Continental Breakfast

PARISH BOARD MEETING – Tuesday, April 2 @ 6:30 PM

BREADS IN THE FREEZER – Special price: \$4.00. See Kathy!

WE ARE COLLECTING FOOD FOR THE CLAYMONT CIVIC CENTER – For Easter. We are collecting turkeys, hams, non-perishable foods to help supply Easter Dinners for those less fortunate than us. Please help!

THE POWER OF PRAYER – Please remember your daily prayer for our country. Today, we begin Day 2.

DUE TO A SCHEDULE CONFLICT – The Icon of Our Lady of Taylor, PA will visit our Parish on Saturday, June 15th. More later.

PYROHY – ORDERS (9-11AM) (302) 798-4588

Monday – Tuesday

March 18 & 19

MAKING & PICKUP

Friday

March 22

TRUSTEES MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

March 17 – Ann Duncan and Thomas Bringle

March 24 – Linda Hnatow and Lorraine Neff

March 31 – Linda Hntaow and Lorraine Neff

April 7 – Victor Kaliakin and Ann Duncan

April 14 – Victor Kaliakin and Ann Duncan

April 21 – Thomas Bringle and Linda Hnatow

UOL ESSAY CONTEST

This Essay Contest is following the theme of the 72nd UOL Convention Theme: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 26:6. All entries will be judged for content, creativity and neatness. All entries must be submitted in English and should be mailed to: UOL Essay Contest, C/O Teresa Linck, 413 Juniper Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410 – or email them to: tlinck.essays@gmail.com. All entries must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2019 or for email entries they must be time stamped no later than 7:00 PM, April 30. All participants will receive a certificate of participation . All 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be announced at the UOL Convention at All Saints Camp. Questions? Please either email (see above) or call 732-824-2047.

Please remember, there can be **no names on the front of any entry**. All entries must have a cover page with the following information: Participants first and last name; age and grade in school; the name and address of the participant's Parish, including city and state. **Drawings** can be no larger than 12" X 18" and **NO NAME ON THE FRONT OF THE DRAWING**. Please attach a **COVER PAGE** (see above) or use the back of the drawing for the above information. All drawings **MUST BE MAILED**.

Written entries must be on 8 1/2" X 11" paper including the cover page with the info above. Entries for 9th grade and above must be typed or printed. Please do not take or send pictures of any entries. If you must send a hand printed essay, please mail it or scan it and then email it.

Topics: **Pre-K and Kindergarten:** Draw a picture of something you like to do with your family.

Grades 1 & 2: One of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit is compassion. Write 2 – 3 sentences explaining what compassion is and draw a picture of someone showing compassion to something or someone.

Grades 3 & 4: In Proverbs 1:8-9, the Bible says: "Hear my son, your father's instructions, and forsake not your mother's teaching..." Write 50 – 100 words explaining what this passage means to you.

Grades 5 & 6: One of the seven acts of Spiritual Mercy is to forgive all who injure us. Write 100-150 words on how you were taught to do this and how you continue to follow that teaching.

Grades 7 & 8: In Proverbs 20:11 the Bible says: "Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright." Write 150-200 words on how this relates to this year's convention theme: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." from Proverbs 26:6 and accepting responsibility for ones actions.

Grades 9 & 10: In John 1:4 the Bible says: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth." Write 200 -250 words on how this relates to this year's Convention theme: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 26:6.

Grades 11&12: Please write 250-500 words on the following topic: As you look forward into the upcoming years and getting ready for college, how do you plan on using what you have learned from your parents and from church teachings in your new environment? How do you plan on staying involved with the Church?

Adults 18 and over: Write 500 or more words on the following topic: This year's Convention theme comes from Proverbs 26:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We have been taught about the Seven Capital Sins and their Opposite Virtues, which are: 1. Pride/Humility; 2. Greed/Kindness; 3. Lust/Chastity (body and soul); 4. Envy, charity; 5. Gluttony/Liberality; 6. Anger/Patience and 7. Sloth/Diligence in service and praise of God. In today's world where pride, love of money and a self-centered universe are the norm, how do we use these virtues as a guideline for training up our children?

PASKA ORDER FORM – ORDER BY TODAY

_____ Small Round (\$7) _____ Large Round (\$10) _____ Butter Lamb (\$3)

Name _____

Please give to Father Stephen or Kathy Duncan with payment

Paskas will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, April 21

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 17 - John and Sandy Cramer

March 24 - David & Eve Lazaration

March 31 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik & Alexander Smith

April 7 - Nancy Tur, Zina Twardus

GOOD FRIDAY – PASKA SIGN UP SHEET – Will soon be in the back of the Church. We shall have a few extra hours to fill since I shall be celebrating Paska with Holy Trinity Parish in Whaleyville, MD on Holy Saturday at 4:00 PM. Please make plans to give up an hour to be at the Tomb of Our Lord!!

READER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 17 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

March 24 - Jean Roeth

March 31 - Thomas Kasprzak

April 7 - John Plachta

April 14 - Irene Maskaly

April 21 - Andrew Duncan

April 28 - Jean Roeth

May 5 - Linda Hnatow

GETTING READY FOR THE SPRING BAZAAR – we have much to prepare for with the number of people we had at the last Bazaar. Here is the schedule of work parties that are scheduled so far:

Making nut rolls, Tuesday, March 26 @ 9:30 AM

Making pound cakes – Thursday, March 28 @ 10:00 AM

Making sauerkraut and cheese pyrohy – Friday, March 29 -7:00 AM

99th ANNUAL ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICE

6:00 PM Service – Light Lenten Supper to Follow

ALL SERVICES ARE ON WEDNESDAYS

March 20 – Aldersgate United Methodist - 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington

March 27 – St. Joseph on the Brandywine RC Church 10 Old Church Road, Wilmington

April 3 – St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church 801 Lea Boulevard, Wilmington

April 10 - Chester-Bethel United Methodist Church 2619 Foulk Road, Wilmington

DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON? – Did you know that if you would get on Smile Amazon and choose our Parish as your beneficiary that Amazon would donate a percentage of your purchase to us? Search on Orthodox Wilmington and choose SS Peter & Paul Ukrainian (yes it is misspelled and we've tried to correct it). Try it and help our Parish Family benefit from your shopping experience!

ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD LENTEN MISSIONS

(All Services Begin at 4:00 PM)

March 17 – Orthodox Sunday – St. Michael Parish (OCA) – Wilmington, DE

March 24 – Descent of the Holy Spirit Parish (Romanian) – Elkins Park, PA

March 31 – St. George (Antiochian) – Upper Darby, PA

April 7 – Holy Assumption (OCA) – Philadelphia, PA

April 14 – Mother of God Church (Georgian) 412 Philmont Ave., Feasterville, PA

UOL ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT – focusing on the Ladder of Divine Ascent: Our Spiritual Journey One Step at a Time, April 13, 2019. Speakers: His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory & Fr. Anthony Perkins. St. Francis Center for Renewal, 395 Bridal Path Road, Bethlehem, PA. Registration: \$45 (\$10 Late Fee), Adolescents \$25 (\$10 Late Fee) children under 12 \$7 which includes breakfast, lunch and supper. For more info call Oleh or Natalie @ (610) 892-7315.

Tentative 2019 Schedule

Saturday, April 13 – Spring Bazaar

Sunday, April 28 – Pascha

Sunday, May 5 – St. Thomas Sunday – Cemeteries

Sunday, May 12 – Mother's Day Dinner

Saturday, June 15 – Visit by Weeping Icon from Taylor, PA

Sunday, June 16 – Father's Day Dinner

Monday, June 24 – First Day of the Apostle's Fast

Sunday, July 14 – Patronal Feast Dinner

Monday, July 15 – 19 – Summer Camp

Saturday, August 3 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, November 2 – Fall Bazaar

Tuesday, November 26 – Community Thanksgiving Service (Holy Rosary)

Sunday, December 15 – UOL Cookie Sale

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of March 18 - Mark & Laura Andreas, Paul Andreas

Week of March 25 - John Cramer, Victor Melnychenko & Joseph Thurstlic

Week of April 1 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of April 8 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of April 15 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of April 22 – Dawn Daniels, David Duncan & Kathy Duncan

Week of April 29 – John Plachuta and David Lazaration

DONATIONS FOR FLOWERS FOR PASCHA

We shall be taking donations to help pay for the flowers that we order 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, please see Linda Hnatow. Thank you!

DONATIONS FOR THE BAZAAR – of Coke products and water as well as Bounty (Paper Towels) and Bathroom tissue will be graciously accepted.

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 Nestor Kowal, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Victor Wronskyj, father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Pani Dobrodyka Lisa Weremedic, Mykola, Brennan, Deborah, Charles, Galina, Dolores, Krystyna, Julian, Madison, Mykola, Rita, Ryan, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Mary Berbick, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Betty Bosland, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, George Burns, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Betty Charney, Mildred (Myrophora) Christo, Erik Colazo, Mary Crystal, Patricia Crystal, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Peter DiVirgilio, John Dmytryk, James Dudrick, David Duncan, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Stephen Farrell, James Garrett, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Mary Eleanor Hamilton, Rick Hastings, Dolores Helms, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Anthony Hnatow, Betty Hnatow, Daniel Holoviak, Caroline Humphrey, Richard Humphrey, Sally Hutnick, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Rosalie Ann Kane, Josephine Kapelus, Sandra Kasch, Thomas Kasprzak, Charles Kaszytski, Julia Kaszytski, Diane Keyser, Barbara Kirylic, Judith Kocinski, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Emma Krasnopera, Volodymyr Krasnopera, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Andrew Makolynyk, Paul Markow, Natalia McDonough, Ronald Michel, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Michael Moroz, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Ryan Pinkowicz, Valentina Plachuta, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Lynn Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Fred Royer, Alla Rudawsky, John Ruczhak, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Maria Russak, Dana Sargent, Charles Scully, Doris Scully, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Wasyl Szeremeta, Tatiana Swec, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Anna Tur, Charles Tyrawsky, Richard Twardus, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, John Wardigo, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Peter Weremedic, Stephen Wienkowitz, Laura Worley, & James Zook.

ICONS ARE TO BE VENERATED

We do not have icons painted throughout our churches simply to decorate them or to make them colorful and beautiful. We use icons to make our churches meaningful; to make them temples for worship and prayer.

St. Paul speaks of Christ as the "icon" of God. That is, if we want to know what God is like, we look upon Christ to find out. Indeed, it is the Incarnation, the fact that God became man, that Jesus Christ born of the Holy Virgin was at the same time the Eternal God, that lies at the basis of an understanding of the special place iconography has in the Church.

It is impossible to see God or portray God. But once God, Who is spirit, takes upon Himself human flesh, once God becomes man, once He is born on earth and lives among us, then He may be portrayed. This is what has been done since the early days of Christianity.

Icons, then, belong to the oldest Christian tradition. It is true that in the eighth century a movement against the use of icons gained considerable momentum. But the confrontation resulted in a clear definition of the icon's role, and in a clear victory for the use of images. "Icons are to be venerated; God alone is to be served in faith." On this Sunday, we celebrate the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

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