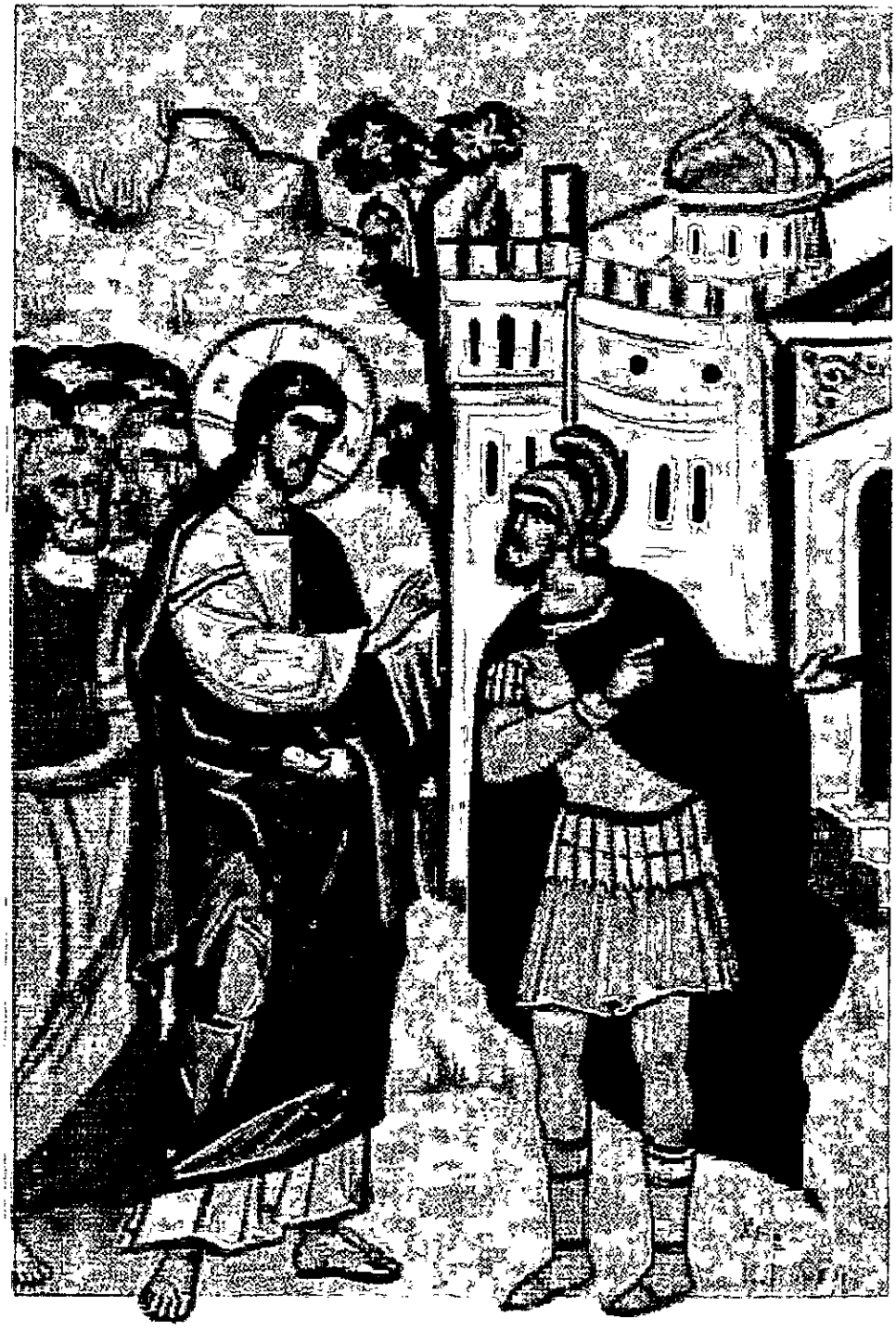

Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

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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

June 28, 2026
Volume 61: Number 26
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of June 28 – July 5, 2026
Celebrating our 98th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, June 28 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 3
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Panakhyda: +Volodymyr (2 Yrs.); +Konstanty (65 yrs.); +Betty (7 yrs); +Ann (3 yrs.); +Larry (4 yrs.); +Rostoslav (43 yrs.); +Kate (12 yrs.); +Ann (12 yrs.); Sam (28 yrs); +Mary (98 yrs.); +Anna (42 yrs.); Philip (63 yrs.); +Xenia (78 yrs.)
Coffee Hour

Tuesday, June 30
7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
Panakhyda: +Oksana Arnaut (40th Day)

Friday, July 3
9:00 AM – Preparing Food for Sunday's 250th Anniversary of the USA

Sunday, July 5 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 4
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Special Coffee Hour – celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the USA

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

4th Sunday –Matins: Luke 24:1-12; Liturgy: Romans 6:18-23; Matthew 8:5-13
Monday –Romans 12:4-5. 15-21; Matthew 12:9-13
Tuesday - Romans 14:9-18; Matthew 12:14-16, 22-30
Wednesday – Romans 15:7-16; Matthew 12:38-45
Thursday – Holy Apostle Jude – Matins: John 21:15-25; Liturgy: Jude 1:1-10; John 14:21-24; Day: Romans 15:17-29; Matthew 12:46-13:3-9
Friday – Romans 16:1-16; Matthew 13:3-9
Saturday – Romans 8:14-21; Matthew 9:9-13
5th Sunday – Matins: Luke 24:12-35; Liturgy: Romans 10:1-10; Matthew 8:28-9:1

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Archpastoral Letter of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA On the Occasion of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America
July 4, 2026

Beloved Clergy, Monastics, Seminarians, Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA: Christ is Among Us!

As the people of the United States of America commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our nation, we, the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, join our fellow citizens in offering heartfelt thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessings bestowed upon this land throughout two and a half centuries of history.

This anniversary invites us to reflect not only upon the remarkable achievements of the American people but also upon the enduring principles that have guided this nation from its earliest days. The Declaration of Independence, adopted on July 4, 1776, boldly proclaimed that all people are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These words, inspired by a profound understanding of human dignity and divine providence, have echoed throughout generations and have inspired countless people around the world who seek freedom, justice, and peace.

The history of the United States is a story of sacrifice, perseverance, and faith. It is a story written by courageous men and women who believed that liberty carries responsibility and that freedom must be safeguarded by virtue. George Washington reminded the nation that "religion and morality are indispensable supports" of political prosperity. John Adams observed that the Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. Abraham Lincoln, in one of the darkest moments of our national history, called upon Americans to remember that this nation was "under God" and dedicated to the proposition that all people are created equal.

These truths remain as relevant today as they were in the founding era. The strength of America has never rested solely upon military power, economic success, or technological achievement. Rather, it has been sustained by the moral character of its people, the vitality of its communities, and the conviction that freedom flourishes only when rooted in virtue, responsibility, and respect for the dignity of every human person.

As Orthodox Christians, we recognize that authentic freedom is not merely the absence of restraint but the ability to choose what is good, true, and holy. The Holy Apostle Paul reminds us: "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13). Our democratic institutions are strengthened when citizens live lives marked by integrity, compassion, self-sacrifice, and respect for one another.

As we celebrate this historic milestone, we must also confront the challenges of our own time. We live in an age marked by polarization, social division, violence, disregard for human life, attacks on the sanctity of marriage and family, and growing indifference toward faith and spiritual values. The future strength of our nation will depend not merely upon legislation or policy but upon the moral renewal of its people. Each generation bears the sacred responsibility of preserving the principles entrusted to us by those who came before.

Therefore, while we rightly honor the achievements of the past, we must not become prisoners of nostalgia. The founders of our nation did not labor and sacrifice so that future generations would simply admire their achievements. Rather, they entrusted us with the responsibility of carrying forward the ideals of liberty, justice, equality, and civic virtue. We honor their legacy best when we remain faithful to those principles and pass them on to our children and grandchildren.

For the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, this anniversary carries a particularly profound meaning. For more than a century, generations of Ukrainian immigrants and their descendants have found refuge, opportunity, and freedom upon these shores. Here they built churches, established communities, preserved their faith, and contributed immeasurably to the life of the American nation.

We are especially grateful to the United States of America for its leadership among the nations of the world and for its steadfast support of the people of Ukraine during one of the darkest periods in modern history. As Ukraine continues to endure the horrors of war, the destruction of communities, and the suffering of innocent people, the assistance provided by the American people has become a powerful witness to the values of justice, compassion, and solidarity.

The faithful of our Church, many of whom maintain deep ties to their ancestral homeland, offer heartfelt gratitude to the government and citizens of the United

States for standing with the people of Ukraine in their struggle against aggression and evil. We pray that God will continue to bless all efforts that seek to restore peace, safeguard human dignity, defend freedom, and establish a just and lasting stability for the people of Ukraine and for all nations suffering from conflict.

At the same time, we recognize that the future of America and the future of the world depend upon our commitment to peace. Peace is not merely the absence of war; it is the presence of justice, reconciliation, and mutual respect. As followers of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we are called to become peacemakers in our homes, communities, workplaces, and nation. The work of building peace begins with the transformation of the human heart through faith, repentance, and love.

As we enter the next chapter of our national history, let us pray that the United States of America may continue to serve as a beacon of hope and freedom for people throughout the world. May this nation remain faithful to its highest ideals and continue to demonstrate that democracy, human dignity, religious freedom, and respect for the rule of law are blessings worthy of preservation and protection.

We call upon the faithful of our Church and all citizens of goodwill to renew their commitment to public service, civic responsibility, and Christian witness. Let us be grateful for the sacrifices of our veterans, first responders, public servants, and all who labor for the common good. Let us strengthen our families, support our communities, care for the vulnerable, and teach future generations the values that have sustained both our nation and our faith.

With gratitude to Almighty God for the blessings of the past, with confidence in His providence for the future, and with unwavering hope in the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we offer our prayers for the United States of America on this historic 250th Anniversary.

May God bless America! May God grant peace, wisdom, and righteousness to the leaders of all nations. And may the Lord guide us to remain faithful stewards of the freedoms and responsibilities entrusted to us.

Invoking upon all of you the abundant blessings of Almighty God, we remain,

With Archpastoral Love in Christ,

† Metropolitan Antony
Prime Hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

† Archbishop Daniel
President of the Consistory and Ruling Hierarch of the Western Eparchy
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

4th Sunday After Pentecost

Jesus gave a great compliment in today's Gospel. He said, "I have not found so great a faith in all Israel." Where would you look for such a person? For those of you who served in the military, could you imagine finding such a person in the armed forces? But that is exactly where Christ found this man of great faith.

This soldier in today's Gospel was a Roman centurion. This means that he was in charge of 100 soldiers in the pagan Roman army. This man of some social prominence had a servant whom he cared about deeply. That is why he went to Christ.

This centurion gives us examples of three virtues in action - not just in theory - but in action.

First of all the centurion was a man of great compassion. Remember at the time of Our Lord the Romans practiced slavery and had a reputation for being cruel to slaves. In this culture a centurion could have easily let a servant die and buy another. After all they were ONLY property. However, he was concerned about his servant. This shows compassion.

One of the greatest tragedies of our times is that many people who bear the name of "Christian" rarely feel or show compassion. People become so wrapped up in themselves and in their own concerns that they don't even take notice of others. They don't take time for other people. There are so many lonely people, even members of this church, who are shut-ins at home, in nursing homes, VA centers and many of them will die before their time not because of their afflictions but from loneliness and the feeling that nobody cares. As I visit these people on the monthly sacramental visitation calls it is so sad when they tell me, "Thank you Father for coming. I haven't seen or heard from anyone except you." Of course the classic bible illustration of this is the parable of the Good Samaritan.

The second virtue we find in the centurion is his great faith. This was the virtue Jesus noticed up front. He said, "Speak only the word and my servant shall be healed." The centurion was not even Jewish. He probably worshipped all the pagan Roman gods. He most probably didn't know anything about Jewish faith and the longing for the Messiah and Savior. He probably didn't believe in only one God. Also he was a man of social standing so for him to go to Jesus, this poor itinerant preacher of no social standing, was a tremendous act of faith.

The third virtue is one of humility. This is not a popular virtue in our day at all. In our "me first" generation pride, stubbornness and selfishness are high on the list. Pride involves putting other things before God, his Church and others. Many people operate like this: "I'll go to church ONLY if it fits my schedule; OR only if I don't have a ball game, a trip or something "MORE" important. Last week we heard the Gospel, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." Our commitment to Christ and His Church cannot be a hobby or a pastime. The virtue of humility involves doing God's will even when I feel like it or something else looks more exciting to do.

We can learn so many things from this centurion and this Gospel. Here is a sobering question as a fitting close to this message.

Ask yourself this. If I were put in front of Christ today or encountered Him like the centurion did, what would He say? "I have never found such faith in all of Israel or America." What would He say about me?

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Holy Aposlte Jude Commemorated on (June 19/July 2)

The Holy Apostle Jude, one of the twelve apostles of Christ, is descended from King David and Solomon, and was the son of Righteous Joseph the Betrothed (Sunday after the Nativity of the Lord) by his first wife.

The Holy Apostle John the Theologian writes in his Gospel, "... neither did his brethren believe in Him" (John. 7:5). St Theophylact, Archbishop of Bulgaria, explains this passage. He says that at the beginning of the Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry, Joseph's sons, Jude among them, did not believe in His divine nature. Tradition says that when St Joseph returned from Egypt, he began to divide his possessions among his sons. He wanted to allot a

share to Christ the Savior, born miraculously and incorruptibly from the All-Pure Virgin Mary. The brothers were opposed to this because Jesus was born of another mother. Only James, later called "The Brother of God," offered to share his portion with Him.

Jude came to believe in Christ the Savior as the awaited Messiah, and he followed Him and was chosen as one of the twelve Apostles. Mindful of his sin, the Apostle Jude considered himself unworthy to be called the Lord's brother, and in his Epistle he calls himself merely the brother of James.

The Holy Apostle Jude also had other names: the Evangelist Matthew terms him "Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddeus" (Mt. 10:3). The Holy Evangelist Mark also calls him Thaddeus (Mark 3:18), and in the Acts of the Holy Apostles he is called Barsabas (Acts 15: 22). This was customary at that time.

After the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, St Jude traveled about preaching the Gospel. He propagated the faith in Christ at first in Judea, Galilee, Samaria and Idumaia, and later in the lands of Arabia, Syria and Mesopotamia. Finally, he went to the city of Edessa. Here he finished the work that was not completed by his predecessor, St Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy (August 21). There is a tradition that St Jude went to Persia, where he wrote his catholic Epistle in Greek. In the Epistle much profound truth was expressed in a few words.

St Jude's Epistle speaks about the Holy Trinity, about the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, about the good and bad angels, and about the dread Last Judgment. The Apostle urges believers to guard themselves against fleshly impurity, to be diligent in prayer, faith and love, to convert the lost to the path of salvation, and to guard themselves from the teachings of heretics. He also says that it is not enough just to be converted to Christianity, but faith must be demonstrated by good works. He cites the rebellious angels and men punished by God (verses 6 ff.) to support this.

The Holy Apostle Jude died as a martyr around the year 80 near Mt. Ararat in Armenia, where he was crucified and pierced by arrows.

Troparion - Tone 1
Divinely we praise you, O Jude, as a faithful witness, * Knowing you to be the brother of Christ. You trampled on delusion, * and so preserved the faith. * Today as we celebrate your holy memory, * by your intercessions we receive remission of sins.

Kontakion - Tone 2

You were chosen as a disciple for your firmness of mind: * An unshakable pillar of the Church of Christ, * You proclaimed His word to the Gentiles, * Telling them to believe in one Godhead. * You were glorified by Him, receiving the grace of healing, * Healing the ills of all who came to you, * O most praised Apostle Jude!

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4th Sunday After Pentecost

A centurion was an officer over 100 men in the Roman army. Every centurion mentioned in the New Testament was a man of great character and a sense of duty. This centurion's concern for his paralyzed servant indicates the type character he did possess. The few times that Jesus did interact with Gentiles during his ministry all point out the great amount of faith possessed by these outsiders. The centurion recognized that no one could possess authority unless they themselves are under authority. As the centurion counted on his relationship with the Roman government to back up his commands, he knew that Jesus had heavenly authority behind His commands.

Faith that is not under - obedient to - God's authority is no faith at all (Jas. 2:14ff). Though the centurion was raised a heathen from birth, without any special privileges (Rom. 3:1-2), he not only demonstrated his faith by appealing to Jesus to heal his servant, but he showed that he understood the mechanics of faith in a way unmatched by any Jew, including the disciples! (Chumbley, The Gospel of Matthew p. 154.)

The centurion joins a list of other men and women of great faith. These were men and women who would not necessarily be the ones that the religious world then (or now) would turn to as examples of faithful servants of God. Matthew records for our edification the stories of the Leper (8:2), the Ruler (9:18), the Blind Man (9:28), the diseased of Mt. 14:36, and the Canaanite Woman (15:28). A study of their circumstances reveals the kind of faith that God expects of all believers - a kind of faith that found lacking would even nullify one's initial belief.

Final Thought

The examples of Jesus' astonishment stand as a warning to us as fishers of men. We are not to judge where to throw out the nets, but are obligated to fish this entire world. We cannot always judge who will be receptive to the Gospel of Christ nor can we predict who will reject it. We as Christians are required to continue the work of the Apostles as the Lord commissioned them. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have

commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Mt. 28:19,20.)

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Historical Background to the Declaration of Independence

Background

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia in the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall), approved the Declaration of Independence. Its purpose was to set forth the principles upon which the Congress had acted two days earlier when it voted in favor of Richard Henry Lee's motion to declare the freedom and independence of the 13 American colonies from England. The Declaration was designed to influence public opinion and gain support both among the new states and abroad -- especially in France, from which the new "United States" sought military assistance.

Although Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston comprised the committee charged with drafting the Declaration, the task fell to Jefferson, regarded as the strongest and most eloquent writer. The document is mainly his work, although the committee and Congress as a whole made a total of 86 changes to Jefferson's draft.

As a scholar well-versed in the ideas and ideals of the French and English Enlightenments, Jefferson found his greatest inspiration in the language and arguments of English philosopher John Locke, who had justified England's "Glorious Revolution" of 1688 on the basis of man's "natural rights." Locke's theory held that government was a contract between the governed and those governing, who derived their power solely from the consent of the governed and whose purpose it was to protect every man's inherent right to property, life and liberty. Jefferson's theory of "natural law" differed in that it substituted the inalienable right of "the pursuit of happiness" for "property," emphasizing that happiness is the product of civic virtue and public duty. The concept of the "pursuit of happiness" originated in the Common Sense School of Scottish philosophy, of which Lord Kames was the best-known proponent.

Jefferson emphasized the contractual justification for independence, arguing that when the tyrannical government of King George III of England repeatedly violated "natural law, " the colonists had not only the right but the duty to revolt.

The assembled Continental Congress deleted a few passages of the draft, and amended others, but outright rejected only two sections: 1) a derogatory reference to the English people; 2) a passionate denunciation of the slave trade.

The latter section was left out, as Jefferson reported, to accede to the wishes of South Carolina and Georgia, who wanted to continue the importation of slaves. The rest of the draft was accepted on July 4, and 56 members of Congress began their formal signing of the document on August 2, 1776.

From the Library of Congress

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FROM GRADUATE SUNDAY

Unfortunately, I received Stephen and Alexander's Bios too late. Here they are:

HIGH SCHOOL

Stephen Bockrath - graduated from Brandywine High School in May. He will be attending the University of Delaware in the Fall plan to major in Insect Ecology & Conservation. Stephen is hoping to pursue my faith more deeply in the coming years, & ideally have the opportunity to meet new people in college. Through my major, I'll potentially get to explore local wildlife research opportunities during my studies. I'm also hoping to learn a second language before I get my degree, & perhaps expand my artistic interests to iconography.

Alexander Zhou - graduated from Brandywine High School in May. He will be attending the University of Delaware in the Fall majoring in human physiology, He's hoping to further pursue hobbies & skills in College, where he might go on to create new bonds with others. He wants to bench 225 lbs, travel with friends & family, & God willing - meet his future wife. He also hopes to be baptized & chrismated in due time. After College, he plans to attend medical school to further his education, & aims to learn more each day.

Again, Congratulations to all of our Graduates!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Grace Duncan, 6/30; Hannah Duncan, 6/30; Patricia Bringle, 7/1 & Dot Dmytryk, 7/2. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy & blessed years!

IT"S SUMMER TIME – a time to relax in the sun, take some down time, enjoy our vacations. Please don't forget about your Parish as we cannot get a vacation from our bills. Treasurer, Mark Andreas

UOL FLEA MARKET

Our UOL is sponsoring their annual Flea Market on Saturday, Augus1 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. All donations of your treasures will be graciously accepted. **Please note that all donations of clothing must be clean and only gently worn.** All donations will be accepted on the following days: **Sunday,** July 26 - after the Divine Liturgy; **Tuesday,** July 28 - Drop off 6:00 -8:00 PM; **Wednesday,** July 29 - Drop off 6:00 -8:00 PM; **Thursday, July 30** - Drop off 6:00 -8:00 PM Also, any finger snacks like cupcakes, brownies, etc. will be graciously accepted. Please support this event!!!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)
June 28 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas
July 5 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik
July 12 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik
July 19 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow
July 26 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow
August 2 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin
August 9 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin

MEETINGS

Parish Board – Wednesday, July 8 @ 6:30 PM

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of June 29 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly
Week of July 6 - Mark & Laura Andreas
Week of July 13 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of July 20 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi
Week of July 27 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus
Week of August 3 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration
Week of August 10 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Pyrohy Schedule: Saturday, July 11; Saturday, August 22; Saturday, September 19 & Saturday, October 3

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

June 28 - Andrew Duncan
July 5 - Thomas Scholz
July 12 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick
July 19 – Thomas Sulpizi
July 26 - John Plachuta
August 2 – Linda Hnatow
August 9 – Jean Roeth

CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2026

Sunday. July 12 – Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul – Patronal Dinner
Saturday, August 1 – UOL Flea Market
Sunday, September 20 – Pot Luck Dinner
Saturday, September 26 – Hall Rented
Monday, October 12 – 15 – Clergy Rertreat
Saturday, October 17 – UOL Retreat
Saturday, November 7 – Fall Bazaar
Saturday, November 14 – Wine Tasting
Saturday, November 28 – St. Philip Fast
Sunday, December 20 – UOL Cookie Sale

EMMANUEL DINING HALL – we will be preparing food for the Emmanuel Dining Hall to feed the homeless on Tuesday, July 14th beginning at 6:00 PM . Please come out and help us in this very special ministry!

100th ANNIVRSARY – will be held on Saturday, July 17th, 2027 with a 10:00 AM – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with a Banquet at the Claymont Ballroom. Mark your calendars! Our first fund Raiser for the event is the sale of T-shirts ($10) polo shirts ($15) and sweat shirts ($20) with the Anniversary Logo on them thanks to the art and stitching work of Michael Kapelus.

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.

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

June 28 - Sonya Patronik
July 5 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur
July 12 - David and Eve Lazaration
July 19 - Sandy Cramer

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Andrew Molewski, Father Anthony Ugolnik, Father James Weremedic, Father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Matushka Andrejuk, Matushka Laura Odell, Matushka Lisa Weremedic, Pani Matka Oksanna Bazylevsky, Pani Matka Maryann Ozlanski, Jonathan Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Joyce Belles, Joyce Bendoakas, Ethel Bernhard, Irene Billon, James Bolton, Maria Borowenski, Betty Bosland, Becky Bosley, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Erik Colazo, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, George Daniels, Taylor Davis, Peter DiVirgilio, James Dudrick, Kathleen Dugan, Mary Eagleton, Maria Economou, Rose Eldridge, Archantula Fanjoy, Mary Farell, Kandi Fullerton, James Garrett, Lisa Gee, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovniov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Richard Haslam, Rick Hastings, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Alicia Hlywak, John Hlywak, Nancy Hlywiak, Daniel Holoviak, Jennifer Huertes, Serhii Ivashyna, Violet Jaskolka, Stephen Johnson, Bill Jones, Linda Josepinson, Michael Kapelus, Walter Katolik, Diane Keyser, Wendy Klinedinst, Tommy Knight, Judith Kocinski, Lorissa Kozakova, Francis Lano, Ed Lavender, Ron Lazaration, Joan Libera, Karen Livick, Sara Long, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Jeremy Madea, Andrew Makolynyk, Jean Marano, Frederick McCarthy, Fred McKirachan, Stephen McNulty, Ronald Michel, Mary Ann Michalcewicz, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Rick Orner, Sienna Ozboya, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Anthony Pantelopulos, Daphne Pantelopulos, George Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Janilyn Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Chuck Redden, Patricia Redden, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Sandy Roeder, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Jeff Rozwadowski, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Richard Scharba, Isaac Schmidt, Clay Seman, John Serth, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Alexandra Sparco, Natalia Stanford, Rich Steinman, Cynthia Stepovij, Nicholas Stepovij, Joseph Stevens, Noel Strobino, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Michael Synczyszyn, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, John Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Mariel Trimble, Stephen Tur, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook

4th Sunday after Pentecost

JESUS HEALS THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

The healing of the centurion's servant is one of nine miracles described by Matthew following the Sermon on the Mount. These miracles show Jesus' power over sickness, evil and death, and his authority over the laws Of nature. He is revealed as the Messiah of deed, just as his teachings show him as the Messiah of word.

The centurion's faith rested on his understanding of who Jesus was. He must have heard Of him, possibly even watched him and listened to him, and he concluded that Jesus was a man with great authority. It cannot have been Jesus' station in life, his background, accent or wealth that struck the centurion. No, he was impressed with the personal greatness of Jesus, signified by the title "Lord" (Matthew 8:5). We can gain an insight into what it means to have faith from this centurion. He took steps based on what he knew about Jesus, approaching him humbly and expectantly. He had decided that Jesus had the will and the power to help him, and he was not disappointed.

The centurion's faith was pivotal: it astonished Jesus and opened the way for a miracle. Jesus said: "Let it be done for you according to your faith" (Matthew 8:13), indicating the importance of the man's faith. Faith draws down the power of God. The same is true for us today: If we have faith, we will see God work great things in our fives and in the fives of our families. We do not need great knowledge; we need only to act on what we do know about Jesus. The centurion could not have known in his time what we now know, following Jesus' death and resurrection. But he had the courage to approach Jesus and ask for the help he needed. Faith grows in this way; each step taken bears fruit in greater knowledge of the Lord. The centurion had an even deeper knowledge of Jesus after the miracle! As we base our decisions on what we know about Jesus, we will experience him working. Test the goodness of God and we will find the words of the prophet fulfilled in our own lives: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases" (Isaiah 53:4).

"Lord Jesus, show us how to grow in faith in order to see your loving intervention in our lives, in our families, and in the church."