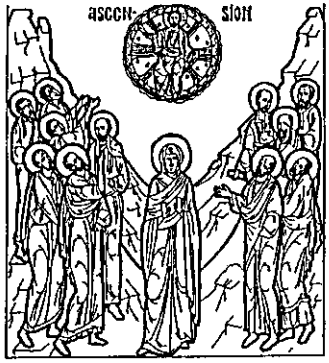
ASCENSION

Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

1406 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, DE 19809
www.sspeterandpauluoc.org
www.orthodoxdelaware.org



Father Stephen Hutnick
(302) 798-4455
E-mail: otche@aol.com

HOLY MYSTERIES

VISITATIONS OF THE SICK AND INFIRM – If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Father Stephen at the Rectory. Our hospitalization code for Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals is **UKR.**

EMERGENCY CALLS – Please call the Rectory anytime (day or night) in an Emergency!

BAPTISMS – Celebrated by appointment.

CROWNING IN MARRIAGE – Please discuss timing with Father prior to setting a date. At least six months notice is needed. There are three 2-hour courses that must be attended prior to the Wedding.

BULLETIN DEADLINE – The deadline for getting information printed in the Weekly Bulletin is Wednesday.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS – For the Needs of the Parish; 2nd Youth Ministry

May 17, 2026
Volume 61: Number 20
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of May 17 - 24, 2026
Celebrating our 98th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, May 17 - Sunday of the Man Born Blind - Tone 5
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, May 20 – Leave-taking of Paskha
7:00 AM – Resurrection Matins – Divine Liturgy – Veneration of the Shroud
6:00 PM – Great Vespers for the Feast

Thursday, May 21 – Feast of the Ascension
8:00 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
5:30 PM – Vesperal Liturgy (St. Nicholas – Dover, DE)

Saturday, May 23
10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD)

Sunday, May 24 - Sunday of the Man Born Blind – Memorial Day - Tone 6
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Panakhyda: Deceased of the Veterans of the Parish
Coffee Hour – UOL Meeting
****

WELCOME TO OUR SEMINARIANS – Let us welcome into our community Subdeacon Yurii Izhyk and Subdeacon Yuri Stefankiv. They will be giving the homily today as their final exam in Homiletics II. Please pray for them as they continue their studies on the path of the Holy Priesthood.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday Man Born Blind – Matins: John 20:11-18; Liturgy: 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 18:22-28; 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 of the Apostles 1:1-12; Luke 24:36-53
Friday – Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8; John 14:10-21
Saturday – Acts of the Apostles 20:7-12; John 14:10-21
Seventh Sunday of Pascha – 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! 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.

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. As we listen to Taps across America, take the time at 3:00 PM 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!

****

PLEASE REMEMBER WHAT THIS HOLIDAY IS ALL ABOUT !

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 * **Serge Grisevich** * **Stephen Gula** * **Anne Hambiski (Johnson)** * **Michael Hambiski** * **Stanley Hambiski** * **Michael Hatz** * **Nicholas Hatz** * **Charles Heluck** – Navy * **Thomas Hlywak** – Army * **Basil Hlywiak** – Army * **John Hnatowski** - Army * **Tim Hnatowski** – Navy * **John Hrynyshyn** – Army * **Walter Hrynyshyn** - Army * **Stephen Hrynyshyn** – Army * **Joseph Justison** * **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 * **Michael Moroz** – Army * **Oscar Orr** - Army Air Force * **Michael Ostafy** * **William Pastuzek** * **John Procak** * **Archangelo Sacco** * **John Sass** – Army * **Charles Scully** – Army * **Anthony Serednicki** * **Philip Shweda** * **Charles Synczyszyn** * **William Sukach** – Army * **William Sukach, Jr.** - Air Force * **Nels Thomas** * **Charles Tyrawsky** – Marines * **John Tyrawski** – Army * **Michael Tyrawski** – Army * **Steven Tyrawski** – Navy * **William Uranko** * **Julia Yarusso** * **Vito Yarusso** and **Jacob Zonick**

****

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."

****

ASCENSION is Christ's "Moving Day" HEAVEN our eternal home

When our Lord ascended into heaven, He took no worldly thing with Him. This is another instance in which He was as we are: we shall, when we die and leave the world, take not a single worldly thing with us. If we haven't sent our "riches" on ahead of time, we shall have nothing.

The Bible tells us that we are born into the world naked, and so shall we leave it. We may accumulate worldly things during our short stay here, but we shall shed them all when we leave have often thought of Ascension Thursday as "moving day". Our Lord moved out of the hut (as it were) of the world into His palace in heaven. He moved easily and joyfully because He was unencumbered by worldly obstacles.

We too will have to move from the world into eternity. We don't know when, but we are positive the day will come. It may be soon or it may be a little later. But, we are more certain of the fact of our eventual moving than we are of anything else in our life.

The day of our moving will be a most important one. Our eternal home depends upon it. We must daily prepare to make our moving day one of joy and ease following the example of our Savior and Model, the Ascending Christ.

****

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Adam Duncan, 5/17; Sophia, (Sonya) Patronik, 5/17; Max Roch, 5/17; Alexander Beaudean, 5/18; Nicholas Beaudean, 5/18; Sarah Hutnick, 5/19 & Stephen , Bockrath, 5/20. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy & blessed years!

SPECIAL THANKS - PAINTING AND CLEANING OF THE CHURCH - Special thanks are expressed to Mark Andreas, Laura Andreas and Irene Maskaly. They could still use help! Interested, talk to Mark!!

SPECIAL THANKS – CLEANING THE CHANDELIERS – Special thanks are expressed to Dana Diehl for taking the time to time to clean the main chandelier in the Church.

SPECIAL THANKS – FEEDING THE HUNGRY – are expressed to Linda Hnatow, Chairperson, Thomas Sulpizi, Christos Kypriano, Elizabeth Kaliakin, Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roesth, Pat Kozak and to Jennifer Robinson for delivering the food to Emmanuel Dining Room.

May God reward all of our workers for their time and talent and grant them many, happy and blessed years!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)
May 17 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow
May 24 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin
May 31 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin
June 7 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta
June 14 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta
June 21 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas
June 28 – Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of May 18 - Mark & Laura Andreas
Week of May 25 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of June 1 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi
Week of June 8 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus
Week of June 15 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration
Week of June 22 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of June 29 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

MEETINGS
Parish Board – Wednesday, June 10 @ 6:30 PM
UOL Meeting – Sunday, May 24th after Coffee Hour.

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.

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.

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

May 17 - Thomas Scholz
May 24 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick
May 31 - Thomas Sulpizi
June 7 - John Plachuta
June 14 - Linda Hnatow
June 21 - Jean Roeth
June 28 - Andrew Duncan

CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2026

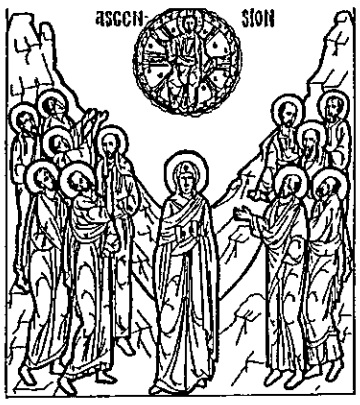
Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost
Saturday, June 6 – Scout Car Wash at the Church
Monday, June 8 – Apostle' Fast
Saturday, June 13 – Hall Rented
Sunday, June 21 – Father's Day Dinner – Graduate Sunday
Sunday. July 12 – Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul – Patronal Dinner
Saturday, August 1 – UOL Flea Market
Saturday, November 7 – Fall Bazaar
Saturday, November 28 – St. Philip Fast
Sunday, December 20 – UOL Cookie Sale

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

May 17 - David and Eve Lazaration
May 24 - Sandy Cramer
May 31 - Sonya Patronik
June 7 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

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, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook

FEAST O THE ASCENSION



Ascension is a feast which should raise us up above the smallness land the narrowness of earthly cares. Christ has made our Ascension possible, too. We will one day, please God, be lifted up away from all the troubles and the annoyances that seem so overpowering and so numerous now.

Imagine for a moment the thoughts of our divine Lord as He rose slowly from the Mount of Olives: He could see Bethlehem where no one had welcomed Him when He was born, Nazareth where He had lived a life of poverty and hardships for thirty years, Jerusalem where He bad been reviled and tortured and crucified.

Having triumphed, and won the day, how did these scenes of His sufferings appear to Him now? Our day will come, too, when we can look down with joy on the battlefields of life where we were sore-tried and wounded, but persevered through God's grace, and won. How small will our effort seem then, compared with the greatness of the reward! How short-lived our battles, compared with the eternity of the heavenly peace we have won!

The Apostles returned from the Mount of Olives not with heavy hearts, but with souls full of confidence and trust. There was work to be done for the Master and for souls. That work would take them they knew not where, that apostate would bring on them they cared not what, their lives were now in their Master's hands. How well-placed their confidence was subsequent history proves; their names are inscribed forever in the Book of Life.
YOU AND I can also return from the Mount of Olives today with a greater confidence and a surer trust in our loving Savior. He has gone, as He Himself said, to prepare a place for us. He has asked us to carry on, for a short while more, with the task He has given us to do here.

He will be back, sooner than we realize, and if He finds us struggling on, doing nothing world-shaking, but putting our heart and soul into the trivial daily tasks, we will hear not the voice of the stern Judge, but the welcome call of the beloved Shepherd: "Come ye blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."