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 31, 2026
Volume 61: Number 22
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of May 31 – June 7, 2026
Celebrating our 98th year of Service to the Lord

This is a Fast Free Week

Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost Sunday – Tone 7
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Baptism: Frank Lewis Gunsallus V
Coffee Hour
12:15 PM – Great Vespers with the Kneeling Prayers

Thursday, June 4
7:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Saturday, June 6
Boy Scout Car Wash

Sunday, June 7 – All Saints Sunday – Tone 8
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Baptism: Sofia Vesper

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

Pentecost – Matins: John 20:19-23; Liturgy: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11; John 7:37-52, 8:12
Monday – Ephesians 5:8-19; Matthew 18:10-20
Tuesday – Romans 1:1-7, 13-17; Matthew 4:25-5:13
Wednesday – Romans 1:18-27; Matthew 5:20-26
Thursday – Romans 1:28-2:9; Matthew 5:27-32
Friday – Romans 2:14-29; Matthew 5:33-41
Saturday – Romans 1:7-12; Matthew 5:42-48
All Saints – Matins: John 20:19-23; Liturgy: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11; John 7:37-52, 8:12

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PENTECOST SUNDAY AND OUR BAPTISM BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Behold we celebrate today the feast of Pentecost the descent of the Holy Spirit the fulfillment of the Promise and the realization of hope. How noble and awesome is this great mystery! Wherefore, O Lord and Creator of All, we cry out: "Glory be to You!"
(Vespers for Pentecost)

With these words we begin our liturgical celebration of the Feast of Pentecost, solemnly concluding the yearly remembrance of our salvation. These words are taken from the famous homily of St. Gregory the Theologian, "On the Holy Spirit" which he delivered in Constantinople on the day of Pentecost, 381 A.D. (Oration 41:5).

According to St. Gregory, the descent of the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of God's promise, since Jesus Christ assured His Apostles that He would send them the "promise of the Father" (Luke 24:49). By the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles received even more than that which they had hoped. The descent of the Holy Spirit brought to its completion the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity which St. Gregory called the "great and exalted mystery". In our holy Orthodox Church we celebrate this mystery of Pentecost, as is so beautifully indicated by another part of the Vespers service:

"We have seen the true light we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true faith, wherefore we worship the undivided Trinity for having saved us." (Vespers for Pentecost)

This "true faith" inspired St. Gregory to deliver his sermon about the divinity of the Holy Spirit, who "completed the work of Christ." Gregory's sermon was addressed against the followers of his predecessor in the See of Constantinople, Archbishop Macedonius (+362) who denied the divinity of the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.

When they returned from the Temple and gathered together in the Upper Room for morning prayers, suddenly the Holy Spirit descended upon them, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles:

"When the day of Pentecost came, they all had met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were staying. Then the tongues of fire appeared to them and, as they separated, they came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit prompted them." (Acts 2:1-4)

The descent of the Holy Spirit took place on the Jewish Pentecost (Acts 2:1), which coincided with the fiftieth day after the glorious Resurrection of Christ. Therefore, the Apostles referred to this memorable event as Pentecost (I Cor. 16:8). But the celebration of this event as a separate feast came somewhat later. In the second half of the fourth century, St. Gregory of Nyssa (+394), in his homily "On Pentecost", already referred to it as the "Great Festivity of Pentecost". For the Christians it marked the completion of the redemptive works of Christ and the inauguration of the New Covenant, the Covenant of Grace which was poured down by the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is a constant reminder of our own "Baptism by the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5), which we received at the time of our Chrismation. As the priest, anointing our body with the holy Chrism, pronounced the words: "THE SEAL OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT", the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon us, taking possession of our soul. We became a living "Temple of the Holy Spirit" (I Cor. 6:19).

St. Peter did not hesitate to confirm this truth when describing the baptism of Cornelius' house: "The Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way that it came down on us (the Apostles) at the `beginning'" (Acts 11:15). Similarly, St. Cyril of Jerusalem (+387) explained to his students: "While our body is anointed with the visible ointment, our souls becomes sanctified by the Holy and Life-giving Spirit" (Catechesis 21:3). The Holy Spirit gives us a new divine life and, therefore, we profess Him to be the "Giver of Life".

The divine life is the life of grace, making us "partakers of the divine nature" (II Peter 1:4) and true children of God: "The Spirit you receive is not the spirit of slaves - but the Spirit of children, and it make us cry out, `ABBA, FATHER!' The Spirit Himself gives testimony to our own spirit that we are the children of God (cf. Rom. 8:15-16). Chrismation, then, is our own "Pentecost" when the Holy Spirit pours upon us His gifts, enabling us to "live a life worthy of our Christian calling" (Eph. 4:10) as children of God.

In the Old Testament, the Jews were ordered by God to celebrate the "Feast of Harvest" on the fiftieth day after the Passover (Ex. 23:16) in thanksgiving for the harvest, and were expected to make an "offering of the new fruits" of their crops. They also referred to this feast as the "Feast of the First Fruits" (Numbers 28:26). Since officially, the harvest lasted for seven weeks, the day was also called the "Feast of Weeks" (Deuteronomy, 16: 9-10).

After the exile, the Rabbis had a custom of motivating their liturgical celebrations with certain events of their sacred history. Thus, they tied the Passover with the miraculous liberation of their people from the Egyptian captivity and the Feast of the Harvest with the Covenant of Mt. Sinai. According to the records, the Mount Sinai events took place on the fiftieth day after the crossing of the Red Sea.

Since the Feast of the Harvest was celebrated on the fiftieth day after the Jewish Passover, the Greek speaking Jews (cf. Tob. 2:1; II Macc. 2:31-32) simply referred to it as "Pentecost" (In Greek, Pentecost means the fiftieth day). Thus, at the time of Jesus, the Feast was generally known as the "Feast of Pentecost" and was celebrated in commemoration of the Covenant with great pomp and ceremony.

Before his Ascension, Jesus instructed His Apostles to stay in Jerusalem and to wait for the "promise of His Father", which was to be fulfilled in a few days (Acts 1:14). After the Ascension, they returned from Mount Olivet to the Upper Room where they spent their time in "continuous prayer" (Acts 1:4-5) and worship "in the Temple" (Luke 24:53). This was, if you want, the first retreat of prayer and meditation made by the Apostles, the Mother of God and the close followers or disciples of Christ.

According to the Jewish tradition, Moses awakened his people in the middle of the night in order to proclaim the Law of God to them. For this reason, in preparation for the Feast of Pentecost the Jews would keep an all-night vigil during which they read the harvest and covenant themes from the Scriptures. The readings were interspersed by the singing of Psalms and spiritual hymns. Some prophecies were also read, including the Prophecy of Joel, saying: "I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind. Your sons and daughters shall prophecy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on my servants will I pour out my Spirit in those days. (Joel 3:1-2)

We can imagine the Apostles at that all-night vigil. They listened to these prophetic words with avid expectation. Down deep in their hearts they must have sensed their imminent fulfillment, and this did happen on the very next morning.

Since Pentecost was originally a feast of the harvest, the Jews used to decorate their homes with the fruits of the harvest - flowers, green foliage, garlands, etc. - in order to add more pomp and solemnity to their celebrations. The Christians also adopted this same custom. To them, however, the green branches and flowers took on a symbolic meaning - the divine life and gifts of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, the clergy wear green vestments for the liturgical services on Pentecost and its post-festive period.

Since we were created to God's image and likeness and we received the Holy Spirit at the time of our Chrismation, by living our life in Him we gradually restore our human nature to its pristine perfection. Justly, our holy Father of the Church call the process of our growing in the divine life our "deification" or "divinization". And this we achieve only through our cooperation with the Holy Spirit Who sustains us and makes us grow in the divine life. Therefore, with piety and devotion, let us constantly implore Him with the well known Prayer to the Holy Spirit extensively used by our people: "Heavenly King, Consoler, the Spirit of Truth present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of Blessings and the Giver of Life: come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all stain and save our souls, O Good One!"

Let us meditate on the verses from Vespers:
Behold we celebrate today the feast of Pentecost * the descent of the Holy Spirit * the fulfillment of the Promise and the realization of hope. * How noble and awesome is this great mystery! * Wherefore, O Lord and Creator of All, * we cry out: "Glory be to You!"

The Holy Spirit provides every gift * He inspires prophecy, and perfects the priesthood, * He grants wisdom to the illiterate * He makes simple fishermen to become wise theologians, * and establishes perfect order in the organization of the Church. * Wherefore, O Comforter, equal in nature and majesty with the Father and the Son glory to You!

Come all you nations of the world * let us adore God in three holy Persons: * Father, Son and Holy Spirit - Three in One. * From all eternity the Father begets the Son * equal to Him in eternity and majesty * equal also to the Holy Spirit * glorified with the Son in the Father * Three Persons, and yet a single Power and Essence and Godhead. * In deep adoration let us cry out to God: * "Holy is God Who made all things through the Son with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit! * Holy the Mighty One through Whom the Father was revealed to us and the Holy Spirit came to this world! * Holy the Immortal One, the Spirit, the Counselor Who proceeds from the Father! * All Holy Trinity, glory to You!"

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PENTECOST: THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is nothing quite as frightening and devastating as the wind. Those who have the misfortune to be in the path of a tornado compare its force to the force of a locomotive. Sailors consider the gale forces that toss their vessels about to be their worst enemy upon the sea.

Today, however, our Holy Orthodox Church gives us a different perspective on the effects of "wind", for this was the means used by our Heavenly Father to unleash the power of the Holy Spirit upon the world. The second chapter of the Book of Acts of the Apostles details the events that occurred on the first Pentecost. In obedience to Christ's directives the Apostles returned to Jerusalem after the Lord's Ascension, gathering in the same Upper Room where they had shared the Mystical Supper with their Master. After ten days, the stillness of the early morning was interrupted by the rush of a mighty wind. According to the Savior's promise, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles in the form of TONGUES OF FIRE, strengthening their faith and filling them with the BURNING DESIRE to proclaim the message of the Risen Christ to everyone! Armed with this new-found "power" they went out into the streets of Jerusalem and preached with such conviction that some 3,000 converts were baptized that very day!

On this great Feast Day, Orthodox Christians are reminded that the Holy Spirit is still the source of all gifts, uniting us together into the community which we call "the Church". Indeed, He is the Treasury of Blessings and the Giver of Life!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Mila Beaudean, 6/1; Daniel Nazarenko, 6/1; Alexander Smith, 6/1; Timothy Feleshchuk, 6/2; Mary Duffy, 6/5; Miriam Krauthauser, 6/5 & Linda Hnatow, 6/5. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy & blessed years!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

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
July 5 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik
July 12 – Victor Kaliakin and Sonya Patronik

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE
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
Week of July 6 - Mark & Laura Andreas
Week of July 13 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Pyrohy Schedule
Friday, June 12
Saturday, July 11
Saturday, August 22
Saturday, September 19
Saturday, October 3

MEETINGS
Parish Board – Wednesday, June 10 @ 6:30 PM

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 31 - Thomas Sulpizi
June 7 - John Plachuta
June 14 - Linda Hnatow
June 21 - Jean Roeth
June 28 - Andrew Duncan
July 5 - Thomas Scholz
July 12 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2026

Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost
Saturday, June 6 – Scout Car Wash at the Church
Monday, June 8 – Apostle' Fast
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
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

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

May 31 - Sonya Patronik
June 7 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur
June 14 - David and Eve Lazaration
June 21 – 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, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Laura Worley, Jack Ziegler & James Zook

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

As we celebrate the Feast of PENTECOST today, it is important that we note that this day is a fulfillment of a promise that Christ gave to His Apostles at the Last Supper. As they gathered for one final Passover meal, our Lord explained to them that although He would be leaving them, He would not be abandoning them – He would send them the Holy Spirit, Who would guide them in all things. When Jesus was about to return to His Heavenly Home, He instructed the Apostles to go back to Jerusalem and wait.

Obediently, they did what they were told. With the rushing of a mighty wind and the appearance of tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit entered the Upper Room where the Apostles were patiently waiting and came into their hearts. The Holy Spirit changed them instantly from timid, fearful men into fearless witnesses for Christ. They went out into the streets of Jerusalem and shared their first-hand knowledge of the Risen Lord, and 3,000 people became Christians that very day because of what they heard.

When we think of Pentecost, there is a great danger of simply viewing it as an event that happened in the life of the Apostles. The Holy Spirit did NOT come solely to these 12 men. The Spirit comes to ALL OF US, and we are all capable of receiving the same power, enthusiasm, joy and excitement for spreading the Word of God that the Apostles were given. The Holy Spirit came to us on the day of our baptism. When we pray fervently, the Holy Spirit comes to us. Every time we come to confession, the Holy Spirit comes to us. Every time we receive the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit comes to us.

We must remember that we are given a great responsibility that goes along with the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are charged to do what the Apostles were asked to do: *"Go and teach all nations!"* We know what the Apostles were able to accomplish for Christ and His Church through the Grace of the Holy Spirit. How about us? What are we doing?

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