Η ΑΜΠΕΛΟΣ

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

October 4, 2026
Volume 61: Number 40
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of October 4 - 11, 2026
Celebrating our 99th year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, October 4 - 18th Sunday Leave-taking of the Holy Cross -Tone 1
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, October 7
8:00 AM – Baking Bread

Thursday, October 8
7:0 AM – Divine Liturgy
7:00 PM – Boy Scouts

Friday, October 9
8:00 AM – Baking Bread

Saturday, October 10
10:00 AM – Archpastoral Liturgy (100th Anniversary of St. John in Johnson City, NY

Sunday, October 11 - 19th Sunday - Tone 2 Venerable Athansius of the Kyivan Caves
8:30 AM – Confessions
9:15 AM – Prayers before Communion
9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful
Baptism: Alexander Zho
Panakhyda: Right Rev. Protopresbyter Paul Hrynyshyn (22 yr.)
Coffee Hour
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100th ANNIVRSARY – 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 Special T-shirts ($10) polo shirts ($15) and sweat shirts ($20) with the Anniversary Logo on them are available thanks to Michael Kapelus.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

18th Sunday – Sunday after the Cross – Matins: John 20:1-10; Liturgy: Cross - Matins: John 20:1-10; Cross: Galatians 2:16-20; Mark 8:34-9:1; Day: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 5:1-11

Monday – Philippians 1:1-7; Luke 3:19-22

Tuesday – Conception of John the Baptist – Galatians 4:22-31; Luke 1:5-25, 57-66, 76, 80; Day – Philippians 1:8-14; Luke 3:23-4:1

Wednesday – Philippians 1:12-20; Luke 4:1-15

Thursday – Philippians 1:20-27; Luke 4:16-22

Friday – Repose of the Apostle John – Matins: John 21:15-25; Liturgy: 1 John 4:12-19; John 19:25-27; 21:24-25; Day: Philippians 1:27-2:4; Luke 4:22-30

Saturday – 1 Corinthians 15:58-16:3; Luke 4:31-36

19th Sunday – Matins: John 20:11-18; Liturgy: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9; Luke 5:1-11

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SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Do you see the cause of the Crucifixion, and the salvation which comes by it? Do you see the relationship of the type to the reality? There the Jews escaped death, but only the temporal; here believers escape eternal death. There the hanging serpent healed the bites of serpents; here the crucified Jesus cured the wounds inflicted by the spiritual dragon. There he who looked with his bodily eyes was healed; here he who beholds with the eyes of his understanding put off all his sins. There that which hung was brass fashioned into the likeness of a serpent; here it was the Lord's Body, built by the Spirit. There a serpent bit and a serpent healed; here death destroyed and a Death saved ...But the Lord's Death was free from all sin, 'neither was guile found in His mouth' (I Peter 2:22) ...For as some noble champion by lifting on high and dashing down, his antagonist, renders his victory more glorious, so Christ, in the sight of all the world, cast down the adverse powers, and ...delivered them from all venomous beasts that vexed them, by being hung upon the Cross ...Here Christ speaks concisely, because His discourse was directed to Nicodemus, but still in a more significant manner ...He shows the great strength of His love ...He, the immortal, who is without beginning, the Infinite Majesty, they but dust and ashes, full of ten thousand sins, who, ungrateful, have at all times offended Him; and these He 'loved' ...He 'gave His Only-begotten Son,' not a servant, not an angel, not an archangel. And yet no one would show such anxiety for his own child, as God did for His ungrateful servant ...He who gives life to others, much more to Himself does He well forth life ...He calls the

Cross the fountain of life, which reason cannot easily allow, as the heathens now by their mocking testify. But faith, which goes beyond the weakness of reasonings, may easily receive and retain it. (St. John Chrysostom. **Homily XXVII on John III, 1)**

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Archpastoral Letter of the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

On the Occasion of Domestic Violence Awareness Month - October 2026

To the Reverend Clergy, and Beloved Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA:

Christ is among us! He is and ever shall be!

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each October, our nation observes Domestic Violence Awareness Month , calling attention to a painful reality that too often remains hidden behind the doors of homes, beneath outward appearances, and sometimes even within our parish communities.

As Orthodox Christians, we cannot regard domestic violence simply as a social problem taking place somewhere beyond the walls of the Church. Whenever a human person is abused, threatened, humiliated, controlled, or made to live in fear, the dignity of a person created in the image and likeness of God is violated.

The Holy Scriptures teach us that "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8). Therefore, wherever violence is justified as love, wherever control is presented as care, wherever humiliation is called discipline, or wherever fear replaces trust, something has gone terribly wrong.

Our Orthodox tradition frequently speaks of the Christian home as a "little church." Within it, husband and wife are called to love sacrificially; parents are entrusted with the sacred responsibility of nurturing their children; and every member of the household should be able to experience security, dignity, forgiveness, and peace. **Domestic violence contradicts this vocation.**

It may take the form of physical assault, but violence is not limited to bruises that can be seen. Abuse may also be emotional, verbal, psychological, sexual, or financial. It may appear through threats, intimidation, isolation, manipulation, obsessive control, or the deliberate destruction of another person's dignity.

Words can hurt. Threats can imprison. Fear can become a cage even when no physical chains are visible. We must therefore state clearly: there is no Christian justification for domestic abuse.

Neither Holy Scripture nor the teachings of the Church concerning marriage, obedience, forgiveness, sacrifice, or bearing one's cross may ever be manipulated to excuse abusive behavior. **Christ never commands a person to accept violence as proof of faithfulness.**

Saint Paul writes: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her." (Ephesians 5:25) . These words reveal the true Orthodox understanding of authority within Christian marriage. Christ exercises authority not by terrorizing, humiliating, or dominating, but by giving Himself away in love.

Christian marriage is therefore not about power over another person. It is about laying down one's life for another. A husband who strikes or terrorizes his wife is not exercising Christian headship. A wife who psychologically or physically abuses her husband is not practicing Christian love. Parents who terrorize their children cannot justify such behavior as Christian discipline.

And we must acknowledge that while women and children are disproportionately affected by domestic violence, men can also become victims of abuse and must not be ashamed to seek assistance. **Every victim deserves to be heard.**

To anyone reading this letter who is currently experiencing domestic violence, we wish to speak directly to you: You do not have to suffer in silence. Do not allow shame or fear to convince you that you must hide what is happening.

Seeking safety is not a sin. Asking for help is not a betrayal of your marriage.

Speaking honestly with your priest, a qualified counselor, law enforcement, or organizations trained to assist victims of domestic violence is not evidence of weak faith. **And when there is immediate danger to you or to your children, protecting life must come first.**

Forgiveness does not mean pretending that violence never happened. Reconciliation requires truth, repentance, accountability, and genuine change. No priest, relative, or fellow parishioner should pressure someone to return immediately to an environment in which that person or his or her children remain in danger.

The Church must never become a place where abuse is hidden for the sake of appearances. The Church must be a place where wounded people encounter Christ.

We especially call upon the clergy of our Holy Church to approach situations of domestic violence with seriousness, compassion, discretion, and appropriate pastoral responsibility.

Our priests are spiritual fathers, but they are not expected to address these situations alone. There are circumstances requiring the involvement of qualified mental-health professionals, physicians, social-service agencies, domestic-violence specialists, and civil authorities. **Referral is not abandonment.** When professional intervention is necessary, the priest should remain pastorally present - praying, listening, accompanying, and reminding the wounded person that he or she remains a beloved member of the Body of Christ.

We also encourage our parish communities to reject the culture of silence that sometimes surrounds domestic abuse. We must never protect reputations at the expense of protecting people.

For Ukrainian Orthodox Christians, October carries another profoundly meaningful image: the Protection - Pokrova - of the Most Holy Mother of God.

We stand before her holy icon and ask: Most Holy Theotokos, cover us with your protecting veil. Protect our families. Protect our children. Protect those who are afraid. **Yet this prayer also places a responsibility upon us.**
If we ask the Mother of God to protect the vulnerable, then we must be willing to become instruments of that protection.

We think especially of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, where countless families continue to experience the violence of war. Women have lost husbands. Children have lost parents. Soldiers and veterans return carrying wounds that are sometimes visible and sometimes hidden deep within the soul. Families live with displacement, trauma, grief, anxiety, and uncertainty. **War wounds not only nations. War enters homes.**

For this reason, our pastoral vigilance must become even greater. Trauma must never become an excuse for violence, but neither should the traumatized person be abandoned. Our veterans, refugees, displaced families, widows, children, and all those carrying the wounds of war need patient pastoral accompaniment and, when necessary, professional care.

Beloved brothers and sisters, Domestic Violence Awareness Month must be more than another designation on the calendar. It should become an examination of conscience.

What atmosphere do we create within our own homes? Do those closest to us experience our presence as safety or fear? Do our words heal or humiliate? Do we listen - or only demand to be heard? Do our children learn from us that strength means domination, or do they discover that Christian strength means patience, self-control, sacrifice, tenderness, and mercy? **Christ tells us: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)**

Peace begins much closer than international negotiations and public declarations. It begins in the human heart. It begins in the way a husband speaks to his wife, a wife to her husband, parents to their children, and children to their aging parents. **It starts at home.**

During this month of awareness and vigilance, let us recommit ourselves to making every Orthodox Christian home truly a little church - a place where Christ is welcomed, where human dignity is protected, where children are safe, where spouses honor one another, where repentance is genuine, and where love casts out fear.

May the Most Holy Birth-giver of God spread her protective veil over every home and family of our Holy Church. May she comfort those who suffer in silence, strengthen those seeking safety, bring repentance to those who cause harm, and guide all of us toward her Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who is the source of healing, reconciliation, and true peace.

With archpastoral love and prayers in Christ,

† ANTONY
By the Grace of God, Metropolitan , Prime Hierarch of the UOC of the USA

† DANIEL
By the Grace of God, Archbishop, President of the Consistory of the UOC of the USA

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to Ivan Otamas, 10/4; Dana Diehl, 10/5; Daniel Pappas, 10/5; Dustin Camac, 10/6 & Father Stephen Hutnick, 10/10. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy & blessed years!

Pyrohy Schedule: Saturday, October 17

Bazaar Work Schedule:
Holupki – Saturday, October 24
Frying Cabbage – Thursday, October 29
Frying Sauerkraut – Tuesday, November 3
Soups & Set-up – Friday, November 6
BAZAAR – Satutrday, November 7

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE BAZAAR – Some of the things needed are Diet Coke and Sprite products, cases of water, paper products and dishwashing detergent.

CALLING ALL BAKERS – we always rely on your tasty treats that you donate to the Bake Table. Again, we ask for your sweet donations. Any questions talk to Andrea.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE
(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)
October 4 – John Plachuta and Linda Hnatow
October 11- Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin
October 18 – Matthew Andreas and Victor Kaliakin
October 25 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta
November 1 – Sonya Patronik and John Plachuta
November 8 - Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas
November 15 - Linda Hnatow and Matthew Andreas

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.

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE
Week of October 5 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly
Week of October 12 - Mark & Laura Andreas
Week of October 19 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson
Week of October 26 - Thomas and Lynn Sulpizi
Week of November 2 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus
Week of November 9 - John Plachuta and David Lazaration
Week of November 16 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE
October 4 - David and Eve Lazaration
October 11 - Sandy Cramer
October 18 - Sonya Patronik
October 25 - Zina Twardus and Nancy Tur

MEETINGS: Parish Board – Wednesday, October 21 @ 6:30 PM

READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE
October 4 - Andrew Duncan
October 11 – Jean Roeth
October 18 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick
October 25 - Thomas Sulpizi
November 1 - John Plachuta
November 8 - Thomas Sholz
November 15 - Linda Hnatow

CALENDER OF EVENTS - 2026
Monday, October 12 – 15 – Clergy Retreat
Saturday, November 7 – Fall Bazaar
Saturday, November 14 – Wine Tasting
Saturday, November 28 – St. Philip Fast
Sunday, December 20 – UOL Cookie Sale

HARVEST TEA AND AUCTION – Atonement Global Methodist Church, 3519 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, DE Sat., Oct. 17 from 12PM – 3PM. Tea Sandwiches, fresh scones, homemade desserts, harp music live auction, books for sale, door prizes & warm fellowship. A variety of teas Tickets: $20.00 call (302) 798-8472 and leave a message.

FESTIVAL OF TREES – Sponsored by Delaware Hospice – November 13 – 15 at the Brantwyn Estate 600 Rockland Road, Wilmington, DE with a special VIP Preview on November 12. There are raffles, baked goods, a marketplace, free daily admission and is a family friendly event. For more info, check the website at FestivalOfTreesDE.org

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archbishop Daniel, Archimandrite Raphael, Father George Bazylevky, Father Vasyl Dovhan, Father Andrew Gall, 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, 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, Elizabeth Kaliakin, 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

ARE YOU WILLING TO TRAVEL LIGHT?

Vacation provides us with time away to relax. Before we go on a trip, we may make a list of things to put in our suitcase. Most times we pack so much that it feels like we are not really "Getting away from it all" but rather taking it all with us!

A lesson from the Gospel of Luke talks about travelling light. Jesus appointed 70 of His disciples to spread the Good News of the Kingdom of God. They were instructed to go forth to preach, teach and heal. Do you know what Christ said to take with them? "Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals...(Luke 10:14). These missionaries were instructed to trust God to provide for them and their needs. They were not to encumber themselves with possessions and worries.

Human nature tends to saddle us all down with lots of unnecessary burdens. While focusing on our problems, we may not be able to see the blessings that are in front of us. Look to the horizon to see the light and hope that God provides us. Pack your luggage light and make your possessions few, since our Lord is there to provide all that we need. Leave all the unneeded things behind, but be sure to take along your faith and courage. Shake off the dust of rejection and failure, instead of carrying them around as baggage.

As Christians, our path is all the same; we continue towards the Kingdom of Heaven. Heed the call of Jesus to travel light and be less dependent on material things. Simplify your life, become more carefree and rejoice in the journey.