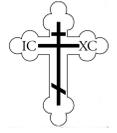


# Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church



45 Ideal Street, Buffalo, NY 14206

A Parish of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

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**OCTOBER 2021**

## New Bulletin Format

We have changed our format for our monthly bulletin to enable you to print out the bulletin at home, if you so desire.

## Prayer List Updates

Please inform Father John when a name on our prayer list can be removed.

## Women's Study on Orthodox Women Saints

every first and third Wednesdays of the month. Moleben of Thanksgiving at 6pm followed by the class.

This month's classes:

**Oct. 6 and 20 at 6pm**

## Why not become a "DDB" (Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor)

For \$100 or more you can help defray expenses for ongoing projects of our Diocese. Please see Fr. John if you wish to give. The Diocese does so much good work for the benefit of our Church in present and future years.

## The Meaning of Church Membership

by Fr. John Kordaris

To be a member of the Church is not the same as being a member of a club or civic group. The Church is the "Body of Christ." Therefore, to be a member of the Church is to be a part of the living Body of Christ.

Just as every member has a different function in the human body, so do we each have a specific function or calling in His Church. God did not create each of us to do the same thing.

If a member of the human body is missing or not functioning, the entire body struggles to reach its full potential. In the same way, without all the members of the Church participating and working together, our ministries do not reach their full potential.

The church needs not only to maintain its current ministries, but also to grow them and add new ministries as needs or opportunities arise. Often new ministries come about because one member has an idea and the gifts, talents, training, abilities, education and skills to make it a reality. Each of us is called to offer our gifts as we have been blessed and serve according to the tasks that God has placed before us in service to His Church.

### What Can We Do? — Evaluate Your Life

Are you a contributing member of the body of Christ? Are you actively serving God and sharing him with others? Are you contributing to peace and unity within his body? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life in the light of these principles.

We are called to apply our gifts, training, abilities, education and skills to the task that God places before us. If we do this humbly and prayerfully, the body of Christ will function to its full potential.

The New Testament's motivation for giving is grace; giving is an act of worship in response to the generosity of God. You are to give, Paul says, "as God has prospered you."

II Corinthians 8 and 9 teaches clearly, "He who sows bountifully will also



## Volunteers Needed

Sign-up to volunteer for a Sunday Coffee Fellowship. Some people donate food, cook food, others help with cleanup by washing dishes or cleaning tables. More hands help take the burden off our regulars. We always appreciate ANY help; we sincerely thank those who give a helping hand.

## Diocesan Commission on Missions & Evangelism

A new issue of KOINONIA, a publication of the Diocesan Commission on Missions and Evangelism, is available on our church website and printed copies are available in our church vestibule. Great newsletter, please read it.

## Nativity Fast Begins Nov. 15

It will be here before we know it! What excitement should form in our hearts for the Fast in anticipation of the Christ Child's Birth! Take the time in October to organize your Lenten recipes, your prayers and your thoughts for this Advent Fasting period. Please check the church calendar and bulletin for fasting regulations.

## Bring your Shoes In!

You may start bringing in a pair of your child's shoes on Sunday, Nov. 3. We need to prepare for a visit from St. Nicholas on Dec. 6th. Make sure a note with your child's name is inside the shoes.

reap bountifully." God blesses those who give with generosity.

Giving is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question is not, "How much do I give to stay in the club?" or "What are the dues?" but "How can I thank God for my many blessings?"

## CHRIST, THE MASTER TEACHER

Christ was the Master Teacher *although...*

He never had a teacher's degree...

He never attended college...

He never heard of educational methods...

Yet...

Christ was the Master Teacher because...

He used events, experiences, and language of the people...

He knew how to love others...

He was a role model...

He shared the faith...

He prayed to His Father for help...

He gave Himself for others...

*And...*

You can follow in the footsteps of Christ the Great Teacher if...

You live the faith...

You teach from knowledge...

You relate faith to life experiences...

You are willing to be a continual learner...

You teach with love, humility, and commitment...

You sow His seeds in the hearts of others.



– Elaine Michaels

## Protection of the Blessed Theotokos — October 1

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This Feast commemorates an event that happened at Constantinople in the 10th century. In the year 911, during the reign of emperor Leo the Wise, a large army of Saracens was preparing to attack the city and conquer it. The pious people of Constantinople reacted to the threat by turning to prayer. They thronged to the church of Blachernae (where the robe and veil of the Mother of God was preserved), and there raised their voices to Christ the Lord, and to His Mother, the All-Holy Theotokos, pleading for mercy and help against the foe.

As the soldiers raised their arms in battle, the church was filled with hymns and prayers. Among the believers was Saint Andrew, a Fool-for-Christ, and his disciple, St. Epiphanius. Suddenly they saw a vision of the Virgin Mary surrounded by a choir of angels, prophets and apostles. Do you see, brother, the Queen of all praying for peace of the world? asked Andrew. Indeed I see, father, answered the disciple. I see and I fear.

The inhabitants of the city heard of this vision of the two men, and were filled with joy and hope that this was a sign of deliverance. They thanked God and sang hymns to the One who interceded for them. All night they prayed in the church, while outside, the Christian army fought against the invaders. The tide of battle turned against the enemy and the defenders of Constantinople emerged with a decisive victory. Saints Andrew and Epiphanius told everyone of their vision in the church, seeing the Holy Virgin with outstretched arms, holding a veil over the city as a sign of protection, and imploring God's mercy upon the people.

Since that time the *Feast of the Protection* has come to be celebrated by the church. In the *Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos*, we entreat of the Queen of Heaven to protect and help: **Remember us in your prayers, O Lady, Virgin Theotokos, that we not perish for the increase of our sins; protect us from all evil and cruel misfortune. For we put our hope in you, and honoring the *Feast of Protection*, we magnify you!**

## St. Dionysius the Areopagite — October 3

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Saint Dionysius is the man mentioned in Acts 17:34, who was converted by the preaching of Saint Paul on Mars' Hill in Athens. According to the tradition, Saint Dionysius afterwards became the first Bishop of Athens, and was finally burned alive during a persecution about 95 AD.

His reputation was magnified during the middle ages because of a number of popular works on mystical theology which were ascribed to him, and which had a tremendous influence on many theological thinkers and writers who lived after the fifth century. It was thought that these writings were those of a man who had heard Saint Paul and knew him, and were thus valuable as a witness to early Christian apostolic teaching.

## St. Thomas the Apostle — October 6

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St. Thomas is the doubting Disciple who demanded proof of our Lord's bodily Resurrection. The story is told in Saint John's Gospel 20:19-29, which is sung at the Easter Vesper Service, and also read as the Ninth Gospel for Morning Prayer. There is an ancient tradition that Thomas went to preach in India, after the disciples separated and went their various ways after the Lord's Ascension. The Orthodox Christians of the Malabar coast in India claim their spiritual descent from Saint Thomas, and have long been called by his name.

## St. James the Son of Alphaeus — October 9

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This Saint James is mentioned in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew 10:3 as one of the 12 disciples of our Lord. By some scholars he is thought to be the same person as Saint James the Just, who is called the "Brother of the Lord," that is, His cousin. The name "James" is the same as the Hebrew "Jacob," a common name in biblical times, even as now.

## The Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council — October 11-17

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This famous Council was held in the year 787 AD in Nicaea, in the time of the Empress Irene and her son Constantine. Some 375 bishops were present from various parts of the Christian world they came together to settle the question concerning the use of icons, or likenesses, of the Lord, His Mother, and the Saints. This question had troubled the Church for about 60 years; some people claimed that ignorant Christians were worshiping images, in defiance of the commandment of God, and therefore felt that the icons should be done away with. Those who were in favor of the use of icons replied that the others wanted to change the traditional Christian faith.

At the seventh session of the Council, on October 13, a definition of faith was read which said in effect: "We decide that the holy icons...ought to be exposed to view...since the oftener Jesus Christ, His Blessed Mother, and the Saints are seen in their likenesses, the more will men be led to think of the originals, and to love them. Honor ought to be paid to icons, but not the worship which belongs to God alone; honor so paid to the likeness is directed to the original which it represents. Such is the doctrine of the holy fathers and the tradition of the Church."

## St. Luke the Evangelist — October 18

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Saint Luke was a physician of Antioch in Syria. After his conversion he became a fellow worker of Saint Paul, and there is a tradition that he traveled about in Greece and the Balkans after the death of Saint Paul, whose teaching he carried on. Saint Luke is the inspired writer of the Gospel which bears his name, and of the Acts of the Apostles as well. There is a persistent tradition that in addition to his other gifts he was a painter, and painted pictures of Christ's Mother; however, he will always be chiefly honored for his writings, which are of such tremendous interest and value to all Christians.

## Seven Sleepers of Ephesus — October 22

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During the persecution of Christians which took place in the reign of the emperor Decius, about 250 AD, seven young men of Ephesus took refuge from their pursuers by hiding in a cave near the city. When the place of their concealment was discovered, the entrance was sealed up and they were left to die of hunger. More than 100 years later the cave was found and opened; according to one tradition, the seven youths came up thinking that they had slept but one night, and that the persecution from which they had been still underway.

The story of the seven sleepers spread all over the world, and was widely regarded as a proof of the bodily resurrection of the dead. Mohammed was so impressed by the tale that he inserted a myth based upon it into his Koran. Many variants of the story are to be found in every branch of literature, and every Eastern Church includes the Seven in its catalogue of Saints.

## St. James the Apostle — October 23

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Saint James, called the brother of the Lord, was an austere and pious man whose sense of righteousness and justice won for him the name of "James the Just." After our Lord's Ascension, James was chosen to be the first ruler of the Church in Jerusalem; his reputation for holiness grew with the passing years, and people used to wait for him in the streets in order to touch his garment as he passed by. He was martyred in AD 61.

## St. Demetrius — October 26

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Saint Demetrius was a native of Thessalonica in Greece, where he was a well-known orator and public speaker. Shortly after the year 300 AD, the Emperor Maximianus came to Thessalonica, and upon hearing of this famous Christian whose persuasion was converting the pagans to Christ, he had Demetrius put in jail.

During the Emperor's stay in Thessalonica, gladiatorial games were held in his honor: Maximianus had a favorite gladiator, Lyaeus, of whom he was very proud, and who boasted that no one could overcome him in combat. Demetrius had a friend, a young man named Nestor, who used to visit him in prison. Nestor told Demetrius about

Lyaeuss, the emperor's champion, and the Saints encouraged him to fight the gladiator in the arena. Nestor overcame Lyaeus completely, and the emperor was so enraged that he had Nestor beheaded on the spot. When Maximianus learned that it was the prayers of Demetrius that were behind the seemingly impossible feat that Nestor had performed, he sent soldiers to Demetrius' cell, and they stabbed him to death with their spears.

Demetrius became the Patron Saint of Thessalonica, and a great church was soon built over his tomb. His reputation increased because of the many miracles that occurred at his shrine, and he became one of the most famous of all Eastern Saints. Saint Nestor is commemorated on October 27.

**2021**

## **ALTAR SERVERS RETREAT**

One Day, In-Person: Saturday, October 9

Location: Holy Resurrection Church  
285 French Hill Rd, Wayne NJ

### SCHEDULE:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 9am     | Greeting of Archbishop<br>Vesting of Archbishop<br>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy      |
| 11:30am | Brunch  |
| 12:30pm | Class: Potential Ways of Serving<br><i>Altar Server, Reader, Blessed Sub-Deacon</i> |
| 2pm     | Outdoor Activities  |
| 3:30pm  | Class: Services of Ordination to the Ranks<br>of Clergy                             |
| 5pm     | Vespers   |
| 6pm     | Closing Dinner  |

Save the Date!

## **FALL TEEN RETREAT**

for Middle School & High School Teens

November 5 - 7, 2021

Camp Shiloh — Hewitt NJ

The Department of Youth Ministry is ready to welcome our young people back for in-person retreats! All middle school and high school students are encouraged to reunite with old friends and make new ones at the OCA Diocese of New York and New Jersey's Fall Teen Retreat being held at Shiloh Bible Camp in Hewitt, New Jersey from November 5-7!

The venue offers many outdoor activities including zip lining, archery, team building, along with indoor rock wall climbing, high ropes course, extensive game room, and its new indoor heated pool. Join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and prayer.

There is NO FEE to participate, but teens **must register by Friday, October 20** at <https://form.jotform.com/212546047238152>

All jurisdictions and nearby diocese are welcome! Additional details will be made available on the department of youth ministry website as planning continues, including youth worker and chaperone registration. *Any questions should be directed to our Youth Department Chairperson, Danielle Geeza via email.*

### **INFORMATION NEEDED...**

We need to update our church records. We especially want family members names, birthdates and anniversaries. Soon you will receive a form to fill out and return to the church. Please take the time to complete the form with the information requested. See Matushka Nancy with any questions. THANK YOU!

# ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL'S VISITATION to our PARISH

**Saturday, October 30 / Sunday, October 31**

Please plan on attending and honoring our Hierarchy,  
Successor to the Apostles.

Saturday: 6:00pm VESPERS, meal following

Sunday: 9:30am GREETING of ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

10:00am HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY, meal following



**NOTE:** We are in need of cookies and other individual small desserts (mini cheesecakes, eclairs) for our desserts for both Saturday and Sunday, preferably not store-bought. If you can make/donate some cookies, please let Nadia Ryan, Chris Metz or Matushka Nancy know. We need to make sure we have enough.

## GUIDELINES for RESPECTFUL WORSHIP

Probably the most important duty that we each have, as worshipers attending church services, is to do all that is in our power to see that a proper decorum and atmosphere is maintained so that all of the congregation is able to pray sincerely, peacefully and meaningfully.

It is with this fact in mind that we have set forth the following guidelines:

Upon entering the Church, at all times, but especially during services, an individual should remember that he or she is in the *House of God*. Reverence and good manners are required so as not to disturb those who are already engaged in prayer, but, even more importantly, as an expression of sincere faith and awareness of the presence of the Lord. No irrelevant conversations should take place, either in the vestibule, the choir area, or in any part of the Church.

According to actual church service procedures, each and every member of the congregation is required to be seated in the pews at the beginning of the service. It is only by leniency that anyone is allowed to enter the church once the services have begun. Thus it behooves us not to take undue advantage of this leniency.

There are several parts of the service during which no one should be moving about. Wherever a person happens to be at these moments, he or she should stop and stand reverently (if able), until the proper time to proceed. These parts of the service are:

1. The procession of the priest and altar boys with the Gospel
2. The reading of the Gospel
3. The Cherubic Hymn and the Great Entrance Procession of the altar servers, children, and priest with the Holy Gifts
4. The recitation of the Nicene Creed (in which the entire congregation should participate)
5. The prayers of offering... "Take, eat..." and the prayers of the consecration of the Holy Gifts
6. The Sermon
7. Any special services (memorial services, processions, prayers)



One basic rule to follow... whenever the Priest is facing the people or outside of the altar, either with the censer or giving the blessing, everyone should stand still wherever they are.



OCTOBER 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 26 <i>St John the Theologian;</i> <i>Venerable Efreem of Perekop</i> 9:30am Hours 10am Divine Liturgy	Sep 27	Sep 28	Sep 29  Fast	Sep 30  6pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy: Protection of Theotokos	1 <b>PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS</b>  Fast	2  5pm CHOIR PRACTICE 6pm Vespers
3 <i>Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite (Bishop of Athens)</i> 9:25am General Confession/Hours 10am Divine Liturgy  Fast free	4  Fast free	5  Fast free	6  6pm Moleben of Thanksgiving 6:30pm Womens Study on Orthodox Women Saints Fast	7  Fast free	8  Fast	9  9am Altar Servers' Retreat (Wayne NJ)  5pm CHOIR PRACTICE 6pm Vespers Fast free
10 <i>Martyrs Eulampius &amp; Eulampia; Ven. Amrose of Optina; New Hieromartyr Peter of Krutitsky</i> 9:30am Hours 10am Divine Liturgy  Fast free	11  Fast free	12  Fast free	13  Fast	14  Fast free	15  Fast	16  5pm CHOIR PRACTICE 6pm Vespers Fast free
17 <i>Prophet Hosea; Monk Martyr Andrew of Crete</i> 9:30am Hours 10am Divine Liturgy  Fast free	18  Fast free	19  Fast free	20  6pm Moleben of Thanksgiving 6:30pm Womens Study on Orthodox Women Saints Fast	21  Fast free	22  Fast	23  5pm CHOIR PRACTICE 6pm Vespers Fast free
24 <i>Martyr Arethas &amp; his companions; Blessed Elesbaan, King of Ethiopia</i> 9:30am Hours 10am Divine Liturgy Memorial Service: Eugenia Nechaev (2 year)  Fast free	25  6pm Vesperal Liturgy for Feast of St. Demetrios Fast free	26 <b>ST DEMETRIOS</b>  Fast free	27  Fast	28  Fast free	29  Fast	30  6pm VESPERS with Archbishop Michael (meal afterwards) Fast free
31 <i>Apostle Stakhys of the 70 &amp; the others; Hieromartyr John Kochurov</i> 9:30am Welcoming of Archbishop 10am HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY (meal afterwards)  Fast free	Nov 1  Fast free	Nov 2  Fast free	Nov 3  6pm Moleben to St. Nektarios 6:30pm Womens Study on Orthodox Women Saints Fast	Nov 4  Fast free	Nov 5  Fast	Nov 6 <b>SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR (Daylight Savings Time Ends)</b>  5pm CHOIR PRACTICE 6pm Vespers Fast free







