

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

WE WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS to our church services. You are invited to pray with us at Liturgy and every service. Please note that Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians. Our non-Orthodox guests are welcomed to receive blessed bread at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

If anyone has any questions on the Liturgy or the Orthodox faith, please feel free to talk with Father John after services or give him a call.

GENERAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

Saturday: 6:00pm Vespers

Sunday: 9:30am 3rd & 6th Hours / 10:00am Divine Liturgy

1st Sunday of month: 9:25am General Confession Service

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.peterandpauloca.org

CHURCH FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/SaintsPeterAndPaulBuffalo

PARISH PRIEST: Rev. Fr. John P. Hutnyan

CELL: 716.681.0302 EMAIL: humblservant@live.com

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Reader Paul Trinca

PARISH COUNCIL: Martin Napierski, President

SISTERHOOD of the Protection of Most Holy Theotokos:

Nadia Ryan, President CELL: 716.228.2277



THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

The Most Blessed Tikhon (Mollard)

Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada

The Most Reverend Michael (Dahulich)

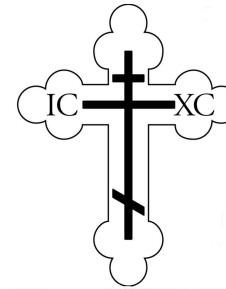
Archbishop of New York, and New York and New Jersey

The Mission of the Orthodox Church in America, the local autocephalous

Orthodox Christian Church, is to be faithful in fulfilling the commandment

of Christ to "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church



45 Ideal Street, Buffalo NY 14206

Mailing Address: 44 Benzinger Street, Buffalo NY 14206

Rectory Phone: 716.248.1306

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

Rev. Fr. John P. Hutnyan, Parish Priest

CELL PHONE: 716.681.0302

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Wisdom of the Fathers

The icon...fills a constant task, which has been that of Christian art from the beginning: to reveal the true relationships between God and man...To the disoriented world the icon brings a testimony of authenticity, of the reality of another way of life...The icon can teach us about God, man, and creation, a new attitude toward the world. — *Leonid Ouspensky*

If we all took only what was necessary to satisfy our needs, giving the rest to those who lack, no one would be rich, no one would be poor, and no one would be in need. — *St. Basil the Great*

God does not judge Christians because they *sinned*, but because they do not *repent*. — *St. Niphon of Constantia*

The memory of insults is the residue of anger. — *St. John Climacus*

A drop of prayer is worth more than a sea of worrying. — *St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

May we never risk the life of our soul by being resentful or bearing grudges. — *St. Gregory of Nyssa*

It is more important to teach by a life of doing good than to preach in eloquent terms. — *St. Isidore of Pelusium*

By the cross we know the gravity of sin and the greatness of God's love toward us. — *St. John Chrysostom*

Do not lose heart. There is hope, and it is Christ. — *St. Ephrem the Syrian*

Do not be ashamed to enter again into the Church. — *St. John Chrysostom*

Think lightly of no man, think no evil in your heart, condemn no man, and curse no man, then shall God give you rest. — *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

If you don't forgive, forget heaven. — *Elder Ephraim*

Prayer breathes hope. — *St. John of Kronstadt*

The Holy Eucharist dispels diseases and heals the sick. — *St. Cyril of Alexandria*

Keeping You Up-to-Date

DORMITION FAST (namely August 1-14)

Please regard the church calendar for fasting regulations. It is one of the four fasting periods that the Orthodox Church prescribes for us to take a look at our spiritual lives.

BLESSING OF FRUIT at the **Vesperal Liturgy on Thursday, August 5 at 6pm**, in honor of the Feastday of Transfiguration of our Lord. It is a custom for EVERYONE to bring some fruit to be blessed and to attend Vesperal Liturgy! (Doesn't have to be a basketful, just a few grapes or plums, etc., in a bowl is fine.

BLESSING OF FLOWERS at **Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 15** in honor of the Feastday of Dormition of the Theotokos. Bring in any type of flowers or plant to be blessed.

GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE is held every 1st Sunday of the month at **9:25am**. Confessions are also heard before Vespers on Saturday evenings and also before the Divine Liturgy on Sundays.

VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL will be Saturday and Sunday, October 30/31, 2021. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** Please show respect to our beloved Archbishop by planning on attending.

COPIES of Archbishop Michael's Pentecost letter are available in the church vestibule.

WE ARE HOPEFUL that more of our parishioners will return to Liturgy on Sundays. If you wish to wear a mask to be more cautious that is your choice and we will respect that.

SERB FEST IS BACK!—Saturday & Sunday, July 24 & 25 at St. Stephen's Serbian Orthodox Church, 177 Weber Rd., Lackawanna. Let us support our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

SPECIAL COLLECTION—As requested by the *Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops*, we will have a special collection on Sunday, July 25 for **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministries**. ANY amount will be appreciated...make checks payable to OCPM.

The June issue of "**THE KOINONIA**," a quarterly publication of the Diocese of NY/NJ, is located in the church vestibule for you to take home and read.

MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Mental Health Task Force of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops has designed an ANONYMOUS, 15-minute survey, for clergy and laity of all Orthodox jurisdictions.

The survey can be accessed on their website: <https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/mental-health-task-force/mental-health-needs-assessment-survey>

Deadline for survey completion is August 31, 2021. Any questions or to get a printed out survey, please see Father John. Your participation is appreciated.

Please note that this survey is not designed to function as a diagnostic or screening tool, rather that aggregate data from this survey will inform us in prioritizing our next steps of creating mental health resources that resonate with the Orthodox identity of our faithful.

DIVINE SERVICES for AUGUST 2021

August 1, Sunday: *Procession of Life-giving Cross; 7 Holy Maccabee Martyrs*
9:25am **General Confession Service/Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**
10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**

August 5, Thursday: 6:00pm **VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY**—Transfiguration of our Lord
Blessing of Fruit

August 7, Saturday: 6:00pm **VESPERS**

August 8, Sunday: *St. Emilian the Confessor*
Venerable Zosina and Savvaty of Solovetsky Monastery
9:30am **Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**
10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**

August 14, Saturday: 6:00pm **VESPERS**

August 15, Sunday: *Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos*
9:30am **Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**
10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**
Blessing of Flowers

August 21, Saturday: 6:00pm **VESPERS**

August 22, Sunday: *Martyr Agathonicus and his companions*
Virgin Martyr Eulalia
9:30am **Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**
10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**

August 28, Saturday: 6:00pm **VESPERS**

August 29, Sunday: *Beheading of St. John the Baptist*
9:30am **Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**
10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**

DIVINE SERVICES for JULY 2021

July 3, Saturday: 6:00pm **VESPERS**

July 4, Sunday: *St. Andrew of Crete; Venerable Martha; Venerable Andrei Rublev*
9:25am **General Confession Service/Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**
10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**

July 10, Saturday: 6:00pm **VESPERS**

July 11, Sunday: *Great Martyr Euphemia; Blessed Princess Olga*
9:30am **Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**
10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**

July 17, Saturday: 6:00pm **VESPERS**

July 18, Sunday: *Martyrs Emilian and Hyacinth*
Nun-Martyrs Greek Duchess Elizabeth and Barbara
9:30am **Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**
10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**
Memorial Service for John and Irene Hromyak

July 19, Monday: 6:00pm **VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY**—Holy Prophet Elijah

July 24, Saturday: 6:00pm **VESPERS**

July 25, Sunday: *Dormition of Righteous Anna (Mother of the Theotokos)*
9:30am **Reading of 3rd/6th Hours**
10:00am **DIVINE LITURGY**

July 31, Saturday: 6:00pm **VESPERS**

Marina the Great Martyr of Antioch / July 17

Martyr Marina was born in Asia Minor in the city of Antioch of Pisidia, into the family of a pagan priest. In infancy she lost her mother, and her father gave her into the care of a nursemaid, who raised her in the Orthodox Faith. Upon learning that his daughter had become a Christian, the father angrily disowned her. During the time of the persecution against Christians, at the age of 15, Saint Marina was arrested and locked up in prison. With firm trust in the will of God and His help, the young prisoner prepared for her impending fate. After many beatings and much torture, the Holy Martyr Marina was beheaded.

Troparion—*Your lamb Marina calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice: "I love You my Bridegroom, and in seeking You I endure suffering. In baptism I was crucified so that I may might reign in You, and I died so that I might live with You. Accept me as a pure sacrifice, for I have offered myself in love." Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful.*

Elijah the Holy Prophet / July 20

The Holy Prophet Elijah is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: "When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames." The name Elijah (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite King Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety.

During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious King Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1). The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Sarephta to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

(continued)

(Elijah the Holy Prophet continued)

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave. The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ / August 6

The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. Jesus took the Apostles Peter, James, and John with Him up upon a mountain, and while they were on the mountain Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ, talking to Him. Peter declared how good it was for them to be there and expressed the desire to build three booths for Moses, Elijah, and Christ. This reference to the booths could imply that this occurred during the time of the Feast of Tabernacles when the Jews would be camping out in the fields for the grape harvest; for this Feast had acquired other associations in the course of its history, including the memory of the wanderings in the wilderness recorded in the Old Testament Book of Exodus.

While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces filled with awe. Jesus came to them and told them to not be afraid. When the three looked up they saw only Jesus.

As Jesus and His disciples came down the mountain, He told them not to speak of what they had seen until He had risen from the dead.

Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos / August 15

The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:25-27). From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home.

Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed.

At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried her soul into heaven.

Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.