



## Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

45 Ideal Street, Buffalo, NY 14206

A Parish of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA



**Archpriest John P. Hutnyan, Rector**

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### August 2022

#### *Dormition of the Theotokos*

The Orthodox revere the Mother of God (Theotokos) above any other saint in the Church. She always stands on Christ's right-hand side in each church icon screen, and in some churches, an enormous icon of her with the Christ Child dominates the space above the altar. Through the Virgin Mary, Christ proves His humanity. Four of the church's 12 great feasts are devoted to her, of which the Dormition is the most significant. Two weeks of fasting and special prayer services precede August 15, when the faithful crowd the church to honor her and remember her feastday. People commonly refer to the day as "Panagia's feastday!"

Unlike most of the events related to Christ's death and resurrection, the Dormition (Falling Asleep of the Mother of God) was not recorded by eyewitnesses in the four Gospels. Writings and legends exist about her death but they have not been historically verified. Therefore the Orthodox Church has not published doctrine concerning this important event. Yet some of these legends have become an inseparable part of the Orthodox belief. There is the popular view that when the Virgin Mary was about to give up her spirit, all the apostles except for Thomas, miraculously appeared in Jerusalem from all parts of the world to pay their respects and receive her blessing. As they were preparing for her funeral and burial angels came in the presence of the apostles and took her body to heaven. When the apostle Thomas, who had not come earlier, went to her grave, he found it empty.

In the hymnology of the Orthodox Church, and especially in the beautiful poetry of Saint John of Damascus, reference is made to this belief of the assumption of the body to heaven. Saint Andrew of Crete also makes reference to it in his sermon on *The Dormition of the Mother of God*.

The Orthodox and the Roman Catholics differ on this belief. The Catholics have made the assumption a part of dogma. As yet, Orthodox have not done so. In addition the Orthodox believe that the Virgin Mary died in Jerusalem, but the Roman Catholics believe she died and was buried in Ephesus. The Orthodox visit the site of her tomb in Jerusalem at the Mount of Olives.

Devout Orthodox Christians prepare for this great feastday of Dormition by fasting for two weeks, from August 1 to the evening of August 14. No weddings may be performed during these two weeks. Families honoring the Theotokos come to Divine Liturgy and bring a single flower or small bouquet to decorate her icon. Others will bake and bring prosphora (altar breads) for Liturgy.



## Brick Project Fundraiser

Purchase a brick in the Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church BRICK PROJECT FUNDRAISER. This fundraiser creates a wonderful opportunity to honor loved ones that are no longer with us and their families, or to leave a living legacy now.



Each brick will be custom engraved and then installed at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church. This project is open to all, not just church members. Cost is \$100.00 per brick. All profits will go to our much needed church repairs.

Please use the enclosed ORDER FORM and mail to the church mailing address:  
44 Benzinger St., Buffalo NY 14206

*“As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord.”*

—Joshua 24:15

*“Repentance is the ship, and fear is its helmsman, while love is the divine harbor.*

*Fear leads us aboard the ship of repentance,  
takes us across the fetid sea of life,  
and guides us to the divine harbor, which is love.”*

—Saint Isaac the Syrian (late 7th century)

## My Life in Christ

*Your soul seeks true life and its natural food.*

*The food of the mind is truth; the food of the heart is peace and blessedness;  
the food of the will is lawfulness.*

*Go to the church; she will give you all of this in plenty,  
for she possesses it super abundantly.*

*She is the pillar and ground of the truth, because in her is the Word of God,  
manifesting the origin of all things – the origin of the human race,  
how man was created after the image and likeness of God,  
how he fell, and has been restored through the redeemer of mankind;  
in her also is revealed the means of salvation, faith, hope and love.*

*She affords us peace and blessedness through her Divine Service,  
above all through the Sacraments. She calls us:*

*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

*She teaches us the true way which leads to eternal life –  
the way of God's Commandments.*

*St. John of Kronstadt*

## 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](http://www.peterandpauloca.org)

CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE:

[www.facebook.com/  
SaintsPeterAndPaulBuffalo](http://www.facebook.com/SaintsPeterAndPaulBuffalo)

RECTOR

Archpriest John P.  
Hutnyan

PARISH COUNCIL

Martin Napierski, President

READERS: Reader Ryan

Galazka; Reader Tim Harper

## 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 NY & NJ

## DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN BENEFACTORS

### WHAT IS IT?

When Archbishop Michael launched the 2011 Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program on January 1st he appealed to the faithful saying, "Please consider becoming a Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor! By offering a sacrificial gift of whatever you are able this year, you will enable our Diocese to financially support a vitally important ministry of your choice." Three vital ministries were identified for targeted funding through the DDB: (1) support for mission parishes, (2) support for seminarians, and (3) support for struggling existing parishes.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program gave a large, very generous donation to Saints Peter and Paul in Buffalo to refurbish the entire church rectory to make it "livable" for a new priest to move here and serve our parish. Can you imagine... you probably would not have had a priest for at least ten years without the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors. Would Saints Peter and Paul still exist if not for the help and generosity of this diocesan program? Now it's time TO GIVE BACK. Please consider a donation to the DDB.

### A GOAL

Father John has asked for a minimum of 5 families from our parish to give to this great program with a minimum donation of \$100. The church has received "ZERO" "NADA" "0" donations so far towards this program. Should we not be thankful for the priests that served you the last 11 years? Honestly, it's a blessing you even have a priest right now with such a great shortage of priests. WE KINDLY ASK YOU TO PLEASE SUPPORT OUR DIOCESE AND GIVE!

## MAKING a FIRM and CONSCIOUS COMMITMENT to CHRIST

By Hieromonk Calinic (Berger)

Because Orthodox Christianity is a faith which strives to live an unadulterated Apostolic Tradition in its fullness, it is a faith that calls for total dedication. Christ Himself is the one who set such a standard of dedication for those who wish to be His disciples (e.g. Luke 9:23). To be an Orthodox Christian takes a **conscious decision, a firm commitment**, and an **unwavering determination** to live the faith and follow Christ under any and all circumstances. It is to put God first and foremost in every decision, both small and great (Luke 16:10), both daily and once-in-a-lifetime. This is especially needed in today's world. Nothing else will open to us the power of the Holy Spirit made available by our Lord. If the church today is lacking in spiritual gifts, it is because it is lacking in believers who have made a real commitment to carry their crosses and follow Christ, living the Orthodox Faith in a conscious, committed and serious manner.

What does this mean, and how should we begin? The first step is to make the decision and not to delay. The disciples followed Christ "immediately." The ones who asked him for a delay, even for good cause, were simply called again with the words "Follow me" (Matthew 8:21-22). Nothing is so urgent or so important than for us to begin following Christ now, today. Saint Paul bids us to act "while it is yet



## ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY

They are asking for support in helping in their loan reduction for St. Tikhon's Monks' House. If you care to give some support, please make out your check to "Diocese of NY & NJ" and designate *Monks House* in the memo section. Donations will be accepted till end of September. More information is available—see Father John.

## CHURCH WISH LIST

Several church and altar area items are desired, to replace existing items in very poor condition. Many families like to donate items in memory of their family members or just in honor of their family for good health. Some people have asked what items are needed, so we have composed an ongoing "wish list". If anyone is interested, please see Father John.

- Censer
- Sand Candle Stands
- Banners
- Chalice Set

## NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

will be held Sunday, August 14th during Coffee Hour.

(Commitment to Christ continued)

today" (Hebrews 3:15), putting nothing off for tomorrow. "Banish the demon of delay," as an old monastic saying puts it.

This decision to make Christ the all-encompassing Lord of our lives must be brought before the Lord, in prayer, in a way unknown to others. "Pray to your Father in secret" (Matthew 6:6). That is, **putting God first and living out our Orthodoxy begins at home.** Here is where the "Liturgy of the Heart" is given a foundation through: consistent daily prayer; deep daily meditation on God's words in the Holy Scriptures (for how can we follow the Lord if we do not know Him?); and keeping the fasting days and calendar commemorations. The daily scripture readings and the *Prologue from Ochrid* are a great aid here. Prayer must be with a book – that ensures that we are doing nothing else at that time given to God. Prayer must start the day from our waking moment, even if a short, "Lord, help me through this day." We cannot make up our own fasting rules or give 1000 excuses why keeping the fasts, a prayer rule or daily readings is too difficult. The result of such an attitude, which the Fathers call "self-will," is that we never grow spiritually or intellectually. Orthodoxy is a struggle and is meant to be so, for without such a struggle we do not advance, we do not draw closer to Christ.

Secondly, we must make a **firm commitment.** When asked why the Christian faith was waning in his day, Saint Seraphim of Sarov replied, "One thing is lacking today – a firm resolve." This means that once we make our decision to follow Christ fully, we do not let it peter away. It must be renewed, weekly, even daily. A great aid here is regular Confession and Holy Communion. Not just Holy Communion, but Confession is needed, as an accounting, and objective self assessment, through which our Lord unchains us from attitudes and behaviors which weigh down our souls. One sweeps the house when it is a bit dusty, not just when it is a total mess. The result is a good and orderly spirit, a peaceful heart and a good attitude.

A firm commitment involves consistency. Saint Theophan the Recluse has written that **consistency is the key to the spiritual life.** One need not have a long prayer rule, but whatever the prayer rule is, it must be for filled unshakably. This more than anything manifest a firm commitment, which changes – bit by bit, imperceptively – the stability and fortitude of the soul. The soul becomes slowly the master of the whole person. Often this is not easy: "the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12). Our Lord of course is not talking about actions towards others, but doing "violence" towards our own laziness, procrastination, etc., by forcing ourselves to say our prayers, do our spiritual reading, etc., no matter what.

Thirdly, to be Orthodox today requires unwavering determination. There will be much in the path of life that is difficult, distracting, draining. Our decision to follow Christ will be tested. Some trials are external (things that happen beyond our control), some are internal (of our own doing). The latter are often more frustrating than the former. If we fall, we must get right back up. Often, putting Christ first in our lives is tested by a simple choice, such as attending the Divine Liturgy, or another event instead. None of the trials of our lives must take us off course; through trials and through choices made for Christ's sake, we grow spiritually and in our love for God. The key is an unwavering determination, a characteristic of godly souls, to put Christ first no matter what the challenge.

Finally, **our commitment must be entirely independent of others.** As Joshua said to the elders and people of Israel: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15). In other words, my mind is made up; you can do what you

## DORMITION FAST

The devout preparation for the great feastday of Dormition (August 15) is by fasting (NO MEAT/NO DAIRY) for two weeks from August 1 to the evening of August 14.

## "GOT SNEAKERS"

Our church has started a fundraising project called "GOT SNEAKERS". We are collecting used sneakers that you no longer need, which will be recycled and made into playground surfaces. The company will provide us with prepaid postage bags and we just drop them off to be shipped. Boxes will be provided in the Fellowship Hall and in the Church Vestibule. Profits will go to our many church repairs.

We have flyers available if you would like to inform your friends and neighbors. See Father John.



*(Commitment to Christ continued)*

want to do. Joshua's words are not a condemnation of others, but an example of the rugged individualism that is sometimes necessary to serve God. Our Lord is the greatest example of this: no one wanted to go to Jerusalem with Him; all subsequently abandoned Him on the Cross. But God did not abandon Jesus and neither will He abandon those who have made the decision with resolve to serve Him.

In this task of following Christ, we Orthodox Christians have as our aid the spiritual wealth of our Holy Tradition, our Saints, our Liturgy, and our Church. On the one hand, living out our Orthodox Faith is a task that we must do together, everyone's sharing of their time and talents to enrich others. But on the other, it is a task done in "secret" and up to each of us individually; even our Lord went off to pray alone. The "Liturgy of the Heart" and the Liturgy of the Church are interdependent. Both together and alone, the Lord is always with those who have determined to follow Him, bearing their crosses. **He alone fills them** with His joy, His peace, His energy – in short, **with the Holy Spirit and all His gifts** – and brings them even now into His Kingdom. Orthodox Christians, do not delay! Make the decision today!

## Mathematical Viewpoint

What equals 100%?

What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%?

We have all been in situations where someone wants you to give over 100%.

How about achieving 100%?

What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions:

**IF:**

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

**IS REPRESENTED AS:**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

**THEN:**

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K is

$$8 + 1 + 18 + 4 + 23 + 15 + 18 + 11 = 98\%$$

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E is

$$11 + 14 + 15 + 23 + 12 + 5 + 4 + 7 + 5 = 96\%$$

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E is

$$1 + 20 + 20 + 9 + 20 + 21 + 4 + 5 = 100\%$$

AND, look how far the LOVE OF GOD will take you !

L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D is

$$12 + 15 + 22 + 5 + 15 + 6 + 7 + 15 + 4 = 101\%$$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that...

While HARD WORK and KNOWLEDGE will get you close, and ATTITUDE will get you there, **it's the LOVE OF GOD that will put you over the top!**

## COLLECTING YOUR PLASTIC BOTTLE & CAN RETURNS

Save your plastic bottles and cans and bring them in to the Fellowship Hall so that our church can collect the deposit returns. This will be an ongoing fundraiser to help with our building repairs. THANK YOU!

## WORKSHOPS for VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

The Diocese of NY & NJ is sponsoring workshops for Church School teachers, youth workers and clergy.

NY State Deanery

Saturday, August

20/10am-2pm

Ss.Peter/Paul Church, Syracuse

**For more info, see the  
bulletin board in the  
church vestibule.**

## YOUTH DAY

Our Diocesan Youth Ministry is sponsoring a Youth Day on **Saturday, August 20th** at TreEscape Aerial Adventure Park in Vernon Township, NJ. For more information, see Father John.

# Schedule of Divine Services and Events

## **SUNDAY, AUGUST 7**

9:25am Service of General Confession with Reading of 3rd/6th Hours after  
10:00am DIVINE LITURGY: Martyr Dometius of Persia/ Venerable Pimen the Faster

## **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10**

6:00pm Akathist Service to the Theotokos

## **FRIDAY, AUGUST 12**

6:00pm Akathist Service to the Theotokos

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 13**

5:00pm Choir Practice  
6:00pm Vespers

## **SUNDAY, AUGUST 14**

9:30am Reading of 3rd/6th Hours  
10:00am DIVINE LITURGY: Commemorate the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos  
Blessing of Flowers  
40-day Memorial Service: departed **Mary Denis**  
Parish Council Meeting

## **MONDAY, AUGUST 15**

Dormition of the Theotokos (NO LITURGY)

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 20**

Church School Workshop, Syracuse NY  
NO CHOIR PRACTICE  
NO VESPERS

## **SUNDAY, AUGUST 21**

9:30am Reading of 3rd/6th Hours  
10:00am DIVINE LITURGY: Apostle Thaddaeus of the 70 / Martyr Bassa /  
Venerable Avramy of Smolensk

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 27**

5:00pm Choir Practice  
6:00pm Vespers

## **SUNDAY, AUGUST 28**

9:30am Reading of 3rd/6th Hours  
10:00am DIVINE LITURGY: Commemorate Beheading of St. John the Baptist  
40-day Memorial Service: departed **Mary Moskaluk**

## **MONDAY, AUGUST 29**

Beheading of St. John the Baptist / STRICT FAST DAY (NO LITURGY)

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

5:00pm Choir  
6:00pm Vespers



# SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

45 IDEAL STREET, BUFFALO, NY 14206 | (716) 681-0302

## SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH FUNDRAISER

Purchase a brick in the Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church fundraiser. The fundraiser creates a wonderful opportunity to honor loved ones that are no longer with us and their families or leave a living legacy now. Each brick will be custom engraved and then installed at Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church 45 Ideal Street, Buffalo, NY 14206.

### CUSTOMER INFORMATION

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### INSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Each brick can be engraved with a name and/or message. All selections will be centered on the brick. Please make selections below.

#### NAME

**\$100.00**

Please limit your custom name to 3 lines of 16 characters maximum each.

Line 1																	
Line 2																	
Line 3																	

**TOTAL**

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please include your payment with this completed form. Cost is \$100.00 per brick. Payments can be made in the form of cash or check. Please make checks payable to: Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church. ONE brick per form.

#### OFFICE USE ONLY

Cash

Check

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



AUGUST 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 31 <b>St Joseph of Arimathea, Righteous Eudocimus, St Germanus (Bishop of Auxerre)</b> 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy St Stephen Serbian Fest	1 <b>DORMITION FAST BEGINS</b>  Fast	2  Fast	3  6:00pm Akathist Service to the Theotokos Fast	4  Fast	5  6:00pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy for Transfiguration <b>BRING FRUIT TO HAVE BLESSED</b> Fast	6 <b>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b>  5:00pm Choir 6:00pm Vespers Fast
7  9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy  Fast	8  Fast	9  Fast	10  6:00pm Akathist Service to the Theotokos Fast	11  Fast	12  6:00pm Akathist Service to the Theotokos Fast	13  5:00pm Choir 6:00pm Vespers Fast
14  9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy Mem: Mary Denis <b>BRING FLOWERS TO HAVE BLESSED</b>  Fast	15 <b>DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS</b>	16  Fast	17  Fast	18  Fast	19  Fast	20  NO CHOIR NO VESPERS
21 <b>Apostle Thaddaeus of the 70, Martyr Bassa, Ven. Avramy of Smolensk</b> 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy	22  Fast	23  Fast	24  Fast	25  Fast	26  Fast	27  5:00pm Choir 6:00pm Vespers
28  9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy Mem: Mary Moskaluk	29 <b>BEHEADING OF ST JOHN the BAPTIST</b>  <b>STRICT FAST</b>	30  Fast	31  Fast	Sep 1 <b>THE CHURCH NEW YEAR</b>	Sep 2  Fast	Sep 3  5:00pm Choir 6:00pm Vespers