



Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church



45 Ideal Street, Buffalo, NY 14206

A Parish of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

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FEBRUARY 2022

WE WELCOME VISITORS & GUESTS

We hope you enjoy praying with us at Liturgy. Please feel free to speak with Fr. John after the service and introduce yourself.

COVID UPDATE for our Parish

To attend our services, everyone is asked and urged by Archbishop Michael, to wear face masks and adhere to social distancing protocols for the safety of all.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Our Sunday Coffee Hour is temporarily suspended. With COVID cases on the rise, it was one of the suggestions from Archbishop Michael. Hopefully we can announce soon that we can resume our fellowship time.

PRAYER LIST Updates

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

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE LITURGY OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT DURING GREAT LENT?

In the Byzantine Church the Liturgy of Saint Basil was celebrated every Sunday and feast day of the whole year. It was the official Eucharistic Liturgy to be celebrated on a regular basis throughout the year.

It is not clearly known why towards the end of the first-quarter of the second millennium, the Liturgy of Saint Basil was replaced by a liturgy attributed to Saint John Chrysostom. For the survival of celebrating Saint Basil's Liturgy during Lent, one scholar says that it happened because of the conservative liturgical character of Lent. Also, it was used by the church to dedicate more time to prayer during Lent as well as the expressively doctrinal and educational character of the Liturgy of Saint Basil. The church found the Latin atmosphere of more dedicated devotion as a good opportunity to teach the faithful the dogma by making them listen to the profound and all-embracing theological explanations of the Basilian Liturgy, especially the Anaphora (the prayer of oblation and consecration in the Divine Liturgy during which the Eucharistic elements are offered).

GREAT LENT STARTS SOON

Great Lent begins on *Monday, March 7th*. What are you planning to do this Great Lenten period in order to get spiritually closer to our Lord? Some suggestions:

- **READ THE BIBLE.** Keep your Bible out on the kitchen counter or on an end table in your living room. This way you will be reminded to read it daily or as often as you can.
- **PRAY MORE.** Priests hear it all the time, "Father, I want to pray more...I just cannot seem to find the time." **MAKE THE TIME.** Even if it is just 15 minutes! Pray at a red light. Pray while sitting in slow traffic on your commute home from work. Pray while waiting to be called in at your doctor appointment—maybe instead of grabbing your cell phone to check your messages.
- **PUT ALL WORRIES ASIDE.** Turn off the TV, computers and cell phones and social media. Instead, spend more time with your family, spend more time with Christ, attend the beautiful Lenten Services at our church. Put your worries in God's Hands.

GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE

Our 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Please remember that even though you might not be in church on some Sundays, the expenses of our parish still continue. If you are able, please give generously towards spreading the love of Jesus Christ to others. And THANK YOU for the love of your church.

CHURCH WEBSITE

Remember to check out our church website (www.peterandpauloca.org) and our Facebook page often for news, updates and photos.

NEW MEMBERS!

Congratulations and welcome to Saints Peter and Paul's to our newest members: John, Bogdana and Andreas Truett. It is a pleasure to have you as a part of our church family!

FEBRUARY 2—*P*RESENTATION OF OUR *L*ORD INTO THE *T*EMPLE

The Orthodox Church celebrates the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (Hypapante), that is, the reception of our Lord Jesus Christ in the temple by Elder Simeon. This event is described in the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament of the Bible. It happened forty days after Jesus was born. According to the Law of Moses, after forty days after giving birth to Jesus, Virgin Mary came to the Temple of Jerusalem with Joseph to dedicate the infant to God. At the same time, they had to offer a pair of turtle doves or two small pigeons.

An elder priest, the righteous Simeon, was living in Jerusalem and at the very moment when he saw Jesus Christ in the temple, he took Him in his arms and said: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel."

Righteous Simeon felt spiritual fulfilment and praised God, who has given him the blessing and joy to take in his arms the Saviour of the world.

Jesus Christ healed the man, who is the image of the Trinity. The faithful receive Christ's Body and Blood during the Holy Communion and, therefore, which is the gift of eternal life from God to humans.

The 4 PREPARATORY WEEKS to GREAT LENT

FEBRUARY 13 — *S*UNDAY OF THE *P*UBLICAN AND *P*HARISEE

Arrogance is the corruption of the soul and spirit of man. It is the greatest weapon of the evil one; it is the mother of hypocrisy; it is the obstacle of spiritual progress; it is the degradation of civilization; it is the greatest enemy of man; it is the opposite of repentance; it is the corruption of the conscience of man.

This is why the church designated the first Sunday of preparation for acceptance of the message of the Resurrection of Christ, with the Parable of the Publican (tax collector) and the Pharisee being read.

The root of evil, arrogance, should be uprooted and replaced with the virtue of humbleness, which is the teaching of this Parable. The highest degree of man's arrogance is when a person speaks to God in prayers as the Pharisee did, saying "*God, I thank you*", only for the opportunity to enumerate his achievements publicly, comparing himself to others who according to him, were sinners, saying "*I am not like other men, sinners, or even like this tax collector.*" He eulogized himself saying, "*I fast, I give tithe*", which he did. But the more he boasted, the more he condemned himself through arrogance.

On the other hand, the tax collector confessed: "*GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER.*" The repentance of the tax collector is the basis of Christian life; it is the passage into the Kingdom; it is the reestablishment of the image of God in the soul of His creature. Humbleness is the queen of all virtues. Thus, the first phrase of the hymnology of the day is "Let us not pray Pharisee-like... Open to me the doors of repentance." The combination of almsgiving, prayer, and piety, along with the intention of repentance like that of the tax collector, is imperative in the life of a Christian. The attitude of the tax collector made him a steward of divine gifts. Repentance and confession of faith is the same two-sided coin.

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CONGRATULATIONS!
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To our parishioner, Ed Niemann on becoming an Assistant to the Sheriff of Erie County (John Garcia). Good luck and may God keep you safe always.

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Fast Free Week: Feb. 14-19
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The week following the Commemoration of the Publican and Pharisee is entitled a "fast free week" in the Orthodox Church. The Church encourages us to eat meat & dairy products to remind us to NOT be like the Pharisee (*boastful*), but to be like the Publican (*humble*)!

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If you know of someone...
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Who should be attending Church Services, please inform Father John. If they need a ride one could possibly be arranged for them.

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SINCERE THANKS
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To Christine & Tim Janikowski for donating the six new hanging lamps on the icon screen. They are in memory of parents, Hans and Svetlana Graef. May their memory be eternal in God's Heavenly Kingdom.

FEBRUARY 20 — SUNDAY OF THE *PRODIGAL SON*

This Parable relates to man's analogical story with the divine gifts to man. It is the consequence of arrogance. The prodigal is one who cannot be saved, whose life is dissolute, who squandered his father's property. Prodigality is the second basic corruption toward which man is inclined. This is why this Parable is known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the subject matter of this week.

Despite the characterization in this Parable, its main subject is the warm parental love of the father. The father's love was unbroken and firm for his prodigal son. His love was shown more at the return of his son than in the beginning, despite the fact that his son squandered his "properties". However, in the end, the son exchanged his prodigality for repentance, and this is the main point of the parable.

This moment changes the prodigal son into the prudent son, expelling arrogance with repentance. While the son was returning to his father, he kept rehearsing over and over again: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you." But when the son saw his father's house in the distance, his father saw him, and ran to him and embraced him warmly. Therefore, the son did not have the opportunity to tell his father what he had been rehearsing. The son at the beginning said, "give me", but in the end he asked, "make me", which is the depth of repentance and obedience, the challenging factors of a Christian.

FEBRUARY 27 — SUNDAY OF *MEATFAST (LAST JUDGMENT)*

It is a strong conviction and belief of the church that Christ will come a second time into the world, not to save the world, but in "glory" to judge the world. Someone might ask, since God knew in advance the destiny of each man, why did he not prevent the non-believers and wrong-doers from being born and being condemned everlastingly? The fate of people is molded on this earth because after death, there is no opportunity for repentance in order to better one's state. Man's restricted mind cannot comprehend God's love for his salvation, and judgment for his condemnation. But here is the center of the belief that there is a Supreme Judge for those who committed iniquities and wrong-doings without punishment or discovery while on earth.

Approaching Lent and Easter, the Christian is advised to correct his faults by fasting, praying, and almsgiving, as recorded in the gospel passage of the day. The last judgment will be made according to the good works of each person as a result of his faith in and worship of God. These good works are directed to the least, those in need as Christ himself says, "as you did it not to one of the "least," those in need as Christ himself says, "as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me." This Sunday is the last day before Lent that the believer eats meat.

MARCH 6 — SUNDAY OF *CHEESEFAST (FORGIVENESS)*

The theme of this Sunday refers to the expulsion of Adam from Paradise. Adam misused his freedom in Paradise by allowing himself to be persuaded by the evil one to disobey the command to not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. The evil one convinced him that by doing so he would know more than God.

The hymnology of the Church presents the condition of Adam outside of Paradise as weeping and working extremely hard for his livelihood. The Gospel passage of the day refers to the manner of praying, fasting, almsgiving, and all good works. These are to be done in secret, without boasting.

The meaning of this Sunday is the condescension of God to the human weakness, “for if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” This is emphasized in the Lords prayer.

The week (six days) preceding Sunday of Cheese and after Meat Sunday, is the addition to the period of Great Lent which completes the 40 days of fasting (excluding Saturdays and Sundays). The name of this Sunday, “Cheese,” implies that the fast of this week is the gradual transition from eating meat to the strict fast of Lent, which starts the next day, Monday, with the first Sunday of Lent at the end of the preliminary seven days (Sunday of Orthodoxy).

Dabs of Thoughts

The Church is not composed of people who are better than the rest, but of people who are trying to be better than they themselves are; not of people who are perfect, but of people who are dissatisfied with their own imperfections.

The aim of fasting is to purify the body, strengthen the soul, and elevate the will for the greater glory of Almighty God.

There is a difference between good sound reasons and reasons that sound good.

“And so let us be glad and bear with patience everything the world throws at us. Secure in the knowledge that it is then that we are most in the mind of God.” – *St. Basil the Great*

“While we are living improperly, we fear all kinds of things. When we recognize God, there occurs a fear of His judgment. But when we start to love God, our fears vanish.” – *St. Isaac the Syrian*

Orthodox isn't a name you call yourself; Orthodox is a life you live.

“Enter into the Church and wash away your sins. For there, is a hospital of sinners and not a court of law.” – *St. John Chrysostom*

“Where there is God, there is no evil. Everything coming from God is peaceful, healthy and leads a person to the judgment of his own imperfections and humility.” – *St. Seraphim of Sarov*

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

“The Most Holy Mother of God prays for us ceaselessly. She is always visiting us. Whenever we turn to her in our heart, she is there. After the Lord, she is the greatest protection for mankind.” – *Elder Thaddeus*

“All you will need to do is one thing: kneel and say, ‘Through the intercession of the Theotokos, Savior save us.’ And you will have great protection.” – *St. Paisios*

Dear Family and Friends of Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church,

Our parish is excited! We are going to build a lit parking lot (for 23 cars) next to our church, and a handicap ramp for the front of our church. The total will be around \$110,000. We are humbly asking for your financial help to begin this project.

Our predecessors and founders worked hard for 127 years and reached heroic accomplishments. It all began on April 1, 1894 when an organization of eight men was established, named SS. Peter and Paul Greek Catholic Russian Orthodox Church Association, with the goal of establishing an Orthodox parish in Buffalo, New York. This was the first Orthodox Church in the Niagara Frontier in the New York/New Jersey Diocese. A fund - \$59.00 in cash and \$253.00 in pledges - was established for the purpose of constructing a church. In May of 1894, a site for the proposed church was purchased at 45 Ideal Street extending to Benzinger Street and consisting of four city lots. The cost of the property was \$2,160.00. Can you imagine the doubt and fear of these eight men when wondering how they will ever be able to afford this huge amount (at that time) of over \$2000? But they did it! They did it with everyone's help. We are currently a parish with under forty families. Families with very spiritual, hard working individuals among them. They would do anything for the good of God's Church, for their church. But they can only do it with everyone's help.

I know that this project has been talked about for years, but it can become a reality soon! Just this past month, we have received over 10% of our goal. Your generous contribution to this fund will greatly help our cause and reach our goal. Please keep in mind that this is a tax-deductible contribution to the parish. Please note on your check it is for the "parking lot & handicap ramp construction." Checks should be mailed to our rectory: 44 Benzinger St. Buffalo NY 14206

Won the lottery recently? Received an inheritance from family? Have a very large tax return? :-)) But seriously, please think of Saints Peter and Paul Church if you can. Let us take to heart the words of St. John Chrysostom: "The rich man is not the one who has much, but the one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever."

Hoping that all of you will share your blessings and make this dream a reality for our small parish, I remain,

A humble servant of the Lord,



Upcoming Important Dates

Sunday, Feb. 6	Service of General Confession at 9:25am Memorial Service for departed Daniel Metz (4 years), offered by wife, Christine Metz
Sunday, Feb. 13	Beginning of Lenten Triodion 40-day Memorial Service for departed Protopresbyter Michael Slovesko
Saturday, Feb. 26	All Souls Memorial Service following Vespers
Sunday, Feb. 27	Memorial Service for departed parents, Hans & Svetlana Graef, offered by Christine Janikowski
Sunday, March 6	Service of General Confession at 9:25am
Monday, March 7	Great Lent begins
Sat./Sun. May 21-22	Parish Visitation of Archbishop Michael

Sincere sympathy is expressed to *Matushka Jeanne and Fr. Vlad Zablotzkyy on the falling asleep of Matushka Jeanne's mother, Edith Cromwell (January 19) and her father, Alonzo Cromwell (January 30). Such sad losses within days of each other.*

Grant eternal rest to the souls of Your newly-departed servants, Edith and Alonzo, who have fallen asleep in the Lord, and make their memory to be eternal

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 PAGE:

www.facebook.com/SaintsPeterAndPaulBuffalo

PARISH PRIEST: Rev. Fr. John P. Hutnyan

PARISH COUNCIL: Martin Napierski, President

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Reader Paul Trinca

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..."



FEBRUARY 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 30 THREE HOLY HIERARCHS 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy	Jan 31	1 6:00pm Vespers Liturgy for Meeting of Lord, Blessing of Candles	2 MEETING OF THE LORD INTO TEMPLE FAST	3	4	5 5:00pm Choir 6:00pm Vespers
6 SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS 9:25am General Confession & Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy; Memorial Service/Dan Metz (4 years)	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 SUNDAY OF PUBLICAN & PHARISEE 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy; 40-day Memorial: Protopresbyter Michael Slovesko FAST FREE	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 SUNDAY OF PRODIGAL SON 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 SUNDAY OF MEATFAST 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy; Memorial Service/Hans & Swetlana Graef	28	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5

