



Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church



45 Ideal Street, Buffalo, NY 14206

A Parish of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

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July 2022

The Divine Liturgy

A Protestant pastor approached a pious Orthodox priest and began boasting: "We do charity work, build orphanages, work with the old people, build hospitals, organize pop concerts for young people and take them on trips, mountain climbing, etc. We are alive and active. What do you do?"

Instead of mentioning all the charity work that his church does the priest replied: "What do we do? We do the Divine Liturgy! And through this divine worship, paradise is filled up and hell is emptied."

Living in a Protestant influenced culture, it is easy to lose perspective as to what the priority of the Christian life is and the power of Orthodox worship. The fact is we can do all kinds of activities through the church, all kinds of programs, philanthropic work, ministries of various kinds, and even good works, but our MAIN task is the Liturgy."

There is no greater Christian work than the Divine Liturgy! The word "liturgy" actually means work. The work of a Christian is first and foremost the Divine Liturgy, in which we offer the whole creation back to God in gratitude for the life of the world.

The Liturgy gives meaning and power to everything else we do. It is what makes us holy, what sanctifies, what gives us the grace of God. It is what gets us to Heaven...because it IS heaven. At every Liturgy we stand in the heavenly places with Christ, we participate in the Kingdom of God.

And while we are there we eat the Heavenly Bread, Jesus Christ, and Holy Communion. Jesus said, "If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man or drink His blood, you have no life in you." NO LIFE IN YOU! These are serious words from the Word of God Himself. (Perhaps it now makes sense to us as to why an apostolic canon and a canon of the Sixth Ecumenical Council advise that a person who misses three Sunday Divine Liturgies in a row, assuming a person is not sick or traveling, is in need of Holy Confession in order to unite themselves again to the Church.)

Do we really understand what the Liturgy is? Don't believe what you see with your earthly eyes! You see a man at an earthly altar dressed in bright robes, but in reality it is *THE* Man, Jesus Christ, in uncreated light standing at the Heavenly Altar. He is the celebrant of every Liturgy. You see altar boys, but the altar area is filled with angelic hosts. You see candles, but the spiritual reality is the prayer of the Church going up to heaven as divine fire. You see icons surrounding the congregation, but in the Liturgy are present living saints worshiping with us. You see an elaborate ritual, but those with spiritual eyes see the Heavenly Liturgy which is served eternally in the Kingdom of God.

In the Divine Liturgy we are in heaven, before the throne of Christ, crucified and risen. We stand at the Last Judgment, and even stand at the Second Coming. All things—past, present, and future—are present with us in the Divine Liturgy.

A story from contemporary times illustrates the power of the Divine Liturgy: a priest-monk in Greece used to celebrate the Liturgy almost every day. He would do 40-day Liturgies (Liturgy every day for 40 days) for those who asked him for the sake of people who needed prayer. One time he was given a list of 62 names and was asked to do the 40 Liturgies.

On the morning before the 40th Liturgy, as he waited for the other priest to arrive to do the Prayers of Preparation, he fell asleep. He had a vision in which he was standing before the holy altar in front of the Consecrated Body and Blood of Christ. The other priest walked over with the list of names in his hands. He took the Communion spoon, dipped it into the chalice and poured some on the first name on the list. The name disappeared. He did the same for the second name, and then the third. Each time the names disappeared, until all 62 were gone!

(continued)

(The Divine Liturgy continued)

This is the power of the Divine Liturgy. Through it we who come in faith and love are healed, are made whole, are restored to life, are saved. Paradise is filled and hell is emptied. How much more valuable is this than a pop concert or even a ministry to the poor (for “the poor you will always have with you,” as the Lord said.)

We, as Orthodox Christians, do the Divine Liturgy! Because we do the Liturgy we learn to love God. Because we do the Liturgy we are able to love one another. Because we do the Liturgy we visit the sick. Because we do the Liturgy we help those in need. Because we do the Liturgy we even do outreach and fundraising for the church.

If we *really* understand the Liturgy and experience it *as it really is*, would we ever miss it?! And would we ever come to Liturgy unprepared to receive Holy Communion?! All Orthodox priests are saddened when they see so many of their parish members miss attending the Divine Liturgy on a regular basis. Do they not care about their soul?! The priests care; *this* priest cares!

Be alive and active in the Church! Do the Divine Liturgy!

PSALM 23

(FOR THE WORK PLACE)

The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want.
He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.
He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that He is my source, and not my job.
He restores my sanity every day and guides my decisions
That I might honor Him in all that I do.

Even though I face absurd amounts of emails, system crashes, unrealistic deadlines, budget cuts, gossiping coworkers, discriminating supervisors and an aging body that does not cooperate every morning...

I still will not stop, for He is with me!
His presence, His peace, and His power will see me through.

He raises me up even when they fail to promote me.
He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go.
His faithfulness and love is better than any bonus check.

His retirement plan beats any 401k there is!
When it's all said and done, I will be working for Him a whole lot longer
And for that, I BLESS HIS NAME!

METZ CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC SATURDAY, JULY 16

2:30pm

Dinner 3:30pm or so

Please notify Chris Metz if you can attend and let her know what dish/dessert you can bring to pass if possible.

(Meat will be provided.)

805 Center Street, East Aurora
716.652.6994

Hope to see you there!

**NO VESPERS, NO CHOIR
PRACTICE ON THIS DAY!**

Need a ride? Let us know!

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. Want to learn about the Orthodox Faith? – Let Father John know!

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. Also, no weddings may be performed during these two weeks.

WE NEED CHRIST in the SUMMER

Even though the summer months are filled with vacations, picnics, and barbecues, our soul still needs the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion for spiritual strength. Come and receive the divine nature of Christ Jesus during the Divine Liturgy on Sundays!

QUOTE by ST. JOHN of KRONSTADT

“Remember that God, during your prayers, is watching for your affirmative answer to the question which He is inwardly asking you: ‘Do you believe I am able to do this?’ To which question you must from the depths of your heart reply, ‘Yes, Lord!’ (Matthew 9:28)”

COFFEE/LUNCH HOUR on SUNDAYS

We all enjoy our fellowship time after Liturgy on Sundays. Our meals, whether simple or elaborate, are always donated. We are often asked...

1. Do we have to bring in a full meal? *Of course not. You can choose to make just a dessert, or a side dish, or a main protein dish.*
2. Can a couple of families provide the whole meal for a Sunday? *Absolutely! Makes it easier to plan and do.*
3. What are some samples of foods that are best for lunch? *Honestly, it can be just about anything—green salad, soup, fresh bread or rolls, deli meats and cheese, main dish (such as chicken), roasted vegetables, order some pizzas, raw vegetables and dips, hummus, bagels and cream cheese, breakfast casseroles.*
4. Any restrictions? *Only when it is a Fasting Period in the Orthodox Church, which means NO MEAT/NO DAIRY. But those dates will be announced or noted on the signup sheets.*
5. Do we HAVE to signup ahead of time? *You don't HAVE to, but it's nice to know so we can prevent any duplicates (such as 2 green salads on the same Sunday).*
6. If I provide the meal, do I have to clean up by myself? *Of course not. We like everyone and anyone to pitch in (cleaning off tables, washing & drying dishes, sweeping up crumbs from the floor).*

Euphemia — The Great Martyr (July 11)

In 451, during the reign of the Sovereigns Marcian and Pulcheria, the Fourth Ecumenical Council was convoked in Chalcedon against Eutyches and those of like mind with him. After much debate, the fathers who were the defenders of Orthodoxy, being 630 in number, agreed among themselves and with those who were of contrary mind, to write their respective definitions of faith and separate books, and to ask God to confirm the truth in this matter. When they had prepared these texts, they placed the two tomes in the case that held Saint Euphemia's relics, sealed it, and departed. After three days of night long supplications, they opened the reliquary in the presence of the Emperor, and found the tome of the heretics under the feet of the Martyr, and the tome of the Orthodox in her right hand.

OUR HOMEBOUND & NURSING FACILITY MEMBERS

A few of our members listed here greatly wish they could be in church every Sunday. Maybe you would like to send them a card to let them know you are thinking of them.

Nancy Krull
Carolyn Krafchak
Nancy Zaika
Irene Zinter
Ija Demjanenko
Mary Denis
Nina Kirkland
Katherine Mazyrka
George Benkow

Addresses are posted on the church bulletin board and are available in the Fellowship Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS

...to Jason and Amanda Ferritto on the baptism of their daughter, Mackenzie Elizabeth on June 4, 2022. May God grant to His handmaiden, Mackenzie Elizabeth many healthy & blessed years!

...to Ryan and Sarah Galazka on the baptism of their son, Elias Mark on June 26, 2022. May God grant to His servant, Elias Mark many healthy & blessed years!

Venerable *Macrina* — Sister of St. Basil the Great (July 19)

Saint Macrina was the sister of the holy hierarchs Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa, and was born in Cappadocia at the beginning of the fourth century. Her mother, Emilia, saw an angel in a dream, naming her unborn child Thekla, in honor of the holy Protomartyr Thekla. Saint Emilia (January 1) fulfilled the will of God and named her daughter Thekla. Another daughter was named Macrina, in honor of a grandmother, who suffered during the time of persecution under the emperor Maximian Galerius.

Besides Macrina, there were nine other children. Saint Emilia herself guided the upbringing and education of her daughter Macrina. She taught her reading and writing in the Scriptural books and Psalms of David, selecting examples from the sacred books which spoke of a pious and God-pleasing life. Saint Emilia taught her daughter to pray and to attend church services. Macrina was also taught the proper knowledge of domestic governance and various handicrafts. She was never left idle and did not participate in childish games or amusements.

When Macrina grew up, her parents betrothed her to a certain pious youth, but the bridegroom soon died. Many young men sought marriage with her, but Macrina refused them all, having chosen the life of a virgin and not wanting to be unfaithful to the memory of her dead fiancé. Saint Macrina lived in the home of her parents, helping them fulfill the household tasks as an overseer together with the servants, and she helped with the upbringing of her younger brothers and sisters. After the death of her father she became the chief support for the family.

When all the children grew up and left the parental home, Saint Macrina convinced her mother, Saint Emilia, to leave the world, to set their slaves free, and to settle in a women's monastery. Several of their servants followed their example. Having taken monastic vows, they lived together as one family, they prayed together, they worked together, they possessed everything in common, and in this manner of life nothing distinguished one from another.

After the death of her mother, Saint Macrina guided the sisters of the monastery. She enjoyed the deep respect of all who knew her. Strictness towards herself and temperance in everything were characteristic of the saint all her life. She slept on boards and had no possessions. Saint Macrina was granted the gift of wonderworking. There was an instance (told by the sisters of the monastery to Saint Gregory of Nyssa after the death of Saint Macrina), when she healed a girl of an eye-affliction. Through the prayers of the saint, there was no shortage of wheat at her monastery in times of famine.

Saint Macrina died in the year 380, after a final prayer of thanks to the Lord for having received His blessings over all the course of her life. She was buried in the same grave with her parents.

Elijah — The Prophet (July 20)

A man who saw God, a wonderworker and zealot for faith in God, Elijah was of the tribe of Aaron, from the city of Tishba, whence he was known as "the Tishbite." When Elijah was born, his father Sabah saw angels of God around the child, swaddling it with fire and feeding it with flames. This was a foreshadowing of Elijah's fiery character and his God-given fiery powers. He spent his whole youth in prayer and meditation, withdrawing often to the desert to ponder and pray in tranquility.

The prophet Elijah came into the greatest conflict with the Israelite king, Ahab,

IMPORTANT!! YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The past number of months we are finding our expenses are more than our income.

Just like at home, when that happens we have to cut down on our expenses. We have pretty much cut down on all unnecessary expenses for the church already.

The only way we can keep the church going properly is to ask EVERYONE to try, *if possible*, to increase your cash offerings. Whether it is \$100 a month more or \$5 a week more—anything will help keep Saints Peter and Paul Church going. If you have not been supporting the church financially, now is the time to start.

If you are in need of weekly offering envelopes, please let Father John know. This also is the best way for the church to keep accurate record of your yearly donations for tax purposes.

THANK YOU, **THANK YOU** for considering giving more to God's church, to *your* church, so that we can continue to offer the Divine Liturgy every Sunday; so that we can continue to take care of the sick and our elderly.

(Elijah continued)

and his evil wife, Jezebel, for they worshipped idols and turned the people from the service of the one, living God. On top of this, Jezebel, being a Syrian, persuaded her husband to build a temple to the Syrian god, Baal, and appointed many priests to the service of this false god. Elijah performed many miracles by the power of God: he closed the heavens, that no rain should fall for three years and six months; called down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice to his God, while the priests of Baal were unable to do this; brought rain from the heavens at his prayers; miraculously multiplied corn and oil in the widow's house at Zarephath, and restored her dead son to life; prophesied to Ahab that the dogs would lick up his blood, and to Jezebel that the dogs would devour her--which came to pass; and performed many other miracles and foretold many events. He talked with God on Horeb, and heard His voice in the calm after the great wind.

At the time of his death, he took Elisha and appointed him his heir as a prophet; he parted the Jordan with his mantle and was finally borne to heaven in a fiery chariot drawn by fiery horses. He appeared, together with Moses, to our Lord Jesus Christ on Mount Tabor at the Transfiguration. At the end of the world, Elijah will appear again, to break the power of the antichrist (Rev. 11).

Christina — The Great Martyr of Tyre (July 24)

Saint Christina was from Tyree in Syria, the daughter of a pagan named Urban. Enlightened in her heart to believe in Christ, she broke her father's idols made of gold and silver, and distributed the pieces to the poor. When her father learned this, he punished her ruthlessly then cast her into prison. The rulers subjected her to imprisonment, hunger, torments, the cutting off of her breasts and her tongue, and finally had her put to the stake, during the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus in the year 200.

Transfiguration of our Lord 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.

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!

REMINDER

Please remember to turn off or silence your cell phone before entering the Church. Thank you!

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

will be held Sunday, July 10th during Coffee Hour.

"Until you have suffered much in your heart, you cannot learn humility. Our life depends on the kind of thoughts we nurture. If our thoughts are peaceful, calm, meek, and kind, then that is what our life is like."

When it comes to our everyday habits, it is important to ask, "Am I putting God first?"

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.

IS IT WORKING?

Bishop Michael proposed the DDB as an alternative way (rather than the old and tired "dues/assessments" system) to fund the vital work of the Church; transitioning from increased "head-taxes" on parishes and a "club membership" orientation to a model of proportional giving/stewardship and sacramental inclusion in the Body of Christ.

The DDB initiative was introduced and approved by the Diocesan Assembly in 2010, and it was inaugurated in January 2011 with an initial grant of \$30,000 from Bishop Michael. Since that time, an additional \$90,000+ had been contributed by men, women, parishes, and organizations: the DDBs. It is anticipated that DDBs will continue to come forward with their generous support for many years.



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 anymore for at least a number of years. 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.

Besides our parish and our priest making a donation, I challenge all so that we have at least five (5) individuals or families give DDB donations for this year.

To see some things that have been accomplished by the DDB and for more information:
www.nynjoca.org/ddb_fruits.html

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

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 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..."



JULY 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 26 ALL SAINTS of NORTH AMERICA & RUSSIA 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy Apostles Fast	Jun 27 Apostles Fast	Jun 28 6:00pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy for Ss Peter & Paul Apostles Fast	Jun 29 SS. PETER & PAUL Fast	Jun 30	1 Fast	2 FR. JOHN in SYRACUSE for CONFERENCE NO CHOIR NO VESPERS
3 Martyr Hyacinth, Hieromartyr Philip (Metro of Moscow) 9:25am Gen Confession & Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6 Fast	7	8 Fast	9 NO CHOIR 6:00pm Vespers
10 45 Martyrs @ Nicopols, Venerable Anthony of Kiev Caves 9:30am Hours 10:00am Liturgy 40-day Memorial: Nancy Steybach PARISH COUNCIL MTG	11	12	13 Fast	14	15 Fast	16 2:30pm CHURCH PICNIC @ Chris Metz' house NO CHOIR NO VESPERS
17 Fathers of 1st Six Ecumenical Councils, Great Martyr Marina 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy	18 FR JOHN ATTENDS OCA ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL IN BALTIMORE July 18 - 22	19	20 PROPHET ELIJAH Fast	21	22 Fast	23 NO CHOIR NO VESPERS
24 Martyr Christina of Tyre; Martyrs & Passionbearers Boris & Gleb 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy	25	26	27 Fast	28	29 Fast	30 St Stephen Serbian Fest, Lackawanna NO CHOIR NO VESPERS
31 St Joseph of Arimathea, Righteous Eudocimus, St Germanus (Bishop of Auxerre) 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy St Stephen Serbian Fest	Aug 1 DORMITION FAST BEGINS Fast	Aug 2 Fast	Aug 3 Fast	Aug 4 Fast	Aug 5 6:00pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy for Transfiguration BRING FRUIT TO HAVE BLESSED Fast	Aug 6 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 5:00pm Choir 6:00pm Vespers Fast