



# Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church



45 Ideal Street, Buffalo, NY 14206

A Parish of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Rev. Fr. John P. Hutnyan, Parish Priest**

Mailing Address: 44 Benzinger Street, Buffalo NY 14206

Email: [humbleservant@live.com](mailto:humbleservant@live.com)

**Cell Phone: 716.681.0302**

Rectory Phone: 716.248.1306

Website: [peterandpauloca.org](http://peterandpauloca.org)

## May 2022

### Ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

#### NO KNEELING in the ORTHODOX CHURCH

There is no kneeling in the Orthodox Church or at home with our prayers until Pentecost, Sunday, June 12. This standing position signifies that we too, will rise with Christ. Special kneeling prayers are taken on the Feast of Pentecost which is 50 days after Pascha.

#### A SINCERE THANK YOU from Father John

I cannot express enough thanks to everyone who helped to make Holy Week and Pascha so beautiful. To all those who cleaned the church interior, the outdoor grounds, the fellowship hall; to those who decorated the tomb so beautifully; to those who donated towards flowers for the tomb and the church; to those who dyed the red eggs; to those who attended Divine Services faithfully during Lent, Holy Week and Pascha; and to our choir who spent many hours and evenings practicing to make our Paschal Divine Liturgy spiritually uplifting. I greatly appreciate each and every one of you.



The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord is celebrated each year on the 40th day after the Holy Feast of Pascha. Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday. The Feast itself commemorates when on the 40th day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

The story of the Ascension, celebrated as one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Church, is found in the book of Acts of the Apostles (1:3-11), as well as in the Gospel of Mark (16:19) and the Gospel of Luke (24:50-53). The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

#### Paschal Lily

According to biblical scholars, the Easter lily was found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane where Judas is said to have betrayed Jesus. Legend tells that lilies miraculously sprung up from the ground where drops of Jesus' sweat and tears fell during His last hours. The Easter lily also has close associations with Jesus' mother, the Virgin Mary. In early icons, the Archangel Gabriel is pictured extending a branch of white lilies to Mary, symbolizing that she had become the Virgin Mother to the Savior.

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## VISITING the ELDERLY

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Hopefully I can return to visiting our elderly and those in nursing facilities once a month. But also, if ANYONE needs a visit from me and/or would like to receive Holy Communion if unable to attend Liturgy, PLEASE CALL ME TO LET ME KNOW. I will gladly make time to visit with you. – *Father John*

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## BLESSING of GRAVES

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**May 7, Saturday**—Riverdale Cemetery, Lewiston NY, 12pm

**May 8, Sunday**—St. Matthew's Cemetery (& Elsewhere), 2pm

PLEASE do not assume Father John knows you want your family's grave blessed or that he knows WHERE your family grave is. Please let him know!

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## GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE

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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.

## 2nd Sunday after Pascha—Sunday of Thomas

The Orthodox Church observes the Sunday of Thomas one week following the celebration of the Sunday of Holy Pascha. The day commemorates the appearance of Christ to His disciples on the evening of the Sunday following Passover. It also commemorates the appearance of the Lord to His disciples eight days later when Thomas was present and proclaimed “My Lord and my God” upon seeing the hands and side of Christ. This Sunday is also called Antipascha (meaning “instead of Pascha” not “in opposition to Pascha”).

## 3rd Sunday after Pascha—Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers

The third Sunday after the Feast of Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers. The day commemorates when the women disciples of our Lord came to the tomb to anoint His body with myrrh oils but found the tomb empty. As the women wondered what this meant, angels appeared proclaiming that Christ had risen from the dead!

## 4th Sunday after Pascha—Sunday of the Paralytic

The fourth Sunday after the Feast of Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Paralytic. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years. The biblical story of the event is found in the Gospel of John 5:1-15.

## 5th Sunday after Pascha—Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

The fifth Sunday after the feast of Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. The day commemorates the encounter of Christ with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. The biblical story of this event and the dialogue between Christ and the woman is found in the gospel of St. John 4:5-42.

## 6th Sunday after Pascha—Sunday of the Blind Man

The Orthodox Church commemorates the Sunday of the Blind Man on the sixth Sunday after Pascha. The day honors the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of St. John 9:1-41.

## **PARKING LOT / HANDICAP RAMP FUNDRAISER**

Did you know we are in the process of fundraising for our new parking lot and handicap ramp to the front of the church? These are both long overdue and we need your financial support to bring this project to realization. Please think of our elderly who want to come to church but cannot do the steps. Please think of our families – making it easier for them to park right next to the church instead of walking down the street. GIVE TODAY!

## **ON MOTHERHOOD**

Whether we are aware of it or not, we are all called to serve God. Whatever talents He has given us, we should choose to use in the service of His glorification. One such talent is the ability of a woman to care for the children of her family. She takes care of their physical needs and also tries to promote what she herself perceives as a need to know God. To women, God has given the wonderful mission of raising children, of building little temples for Him, raising another generation inspired to praise God.

Orthodox Christians understand just how exalted motherhood is. Has God not willed to be incarnate of a woman – Mary, the blessed offspring of aged Joachim and Anna? She was found worthy to take part in the mystery of the incarnation, having perfected in her soul purity, humility, obedience, silence, simplicity, and a gentle disposition. She knew that such is precious in the sight of God one Peter 3:4. And in the environment of her purity of mind and speech, as well as her quiet comportment, she raised her holy son with gentle love and care while she is unique and her holiness, she is absolutely beautiful in her humanity. Perhaps every woman cherishes the wish in her heart to have the special grace that renders the mother of God, the saint of saints, and the model of purity and silence.

While God entrusts the leading to spiritual growth and development of virtues to many people, including priests and Godparents, He chooses women to serve Him in motherhood and we ought to understand that it is a holy calling.

*Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers, grandmothers, and Godmothers. Eternal memory to all of those our Risen Lord has called into His heavenly Kingdom!*

### **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)

**PARISH PRIEST:** Rev. Fr. 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..."*



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 45 Ideal Street, Buffalo, New York 14206  
 (phone) 716-681-0302



MAY 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>SUNDAY of DOUBTING THOMAS</b> 9:25am General Confession / Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy	2	3	4  <b>Fast</b>	5	6  <b>Fast</b>	7  <b>12pm Blessing Graves (Riverdale Cemetery, Lewiston)</b> <b>5pm Choir Practice</b> <b>6:00pm Vespers</b>
8 <b>SUNDAY OF MYRRHBEARING WOMEN</b> 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy 2:00pm Blessing Graves (St. Matthews & Elsewhere) <b>HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!</b>	9	10	11  <b>SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS</b>  <b>Fast</b>	12	13  <b>Fast</b>	14  <b>5:00pm Choir Practice</b> <b>6:00pm Vespers</b>
15 <b>SUNDAY OF PARALYTIC</b> 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy	16	17	18  <b>Fast</b>	19	20  <b>Fast</b>	21  <b>SS. CONSTANTINE &amp; HELEN</b>  <b>6:00pm Vespers with Archbishop Reception to follow</b>
22 <b>SUNDAY of SAMARITAN WOMAN</b> 9:30am Hours 10am HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY with ARCHBISHOP Dinner Reception	23	24	25  <b>Fast</b>	26	27  <b>Fast</b>	28  <b>5:00pm Choir Practice</b> <b>6:00pm Vespers</b>
29 <b>SUNDAY of BLIND MAN</b> 9:30am Hours 10:00am Divine Liturgy	30  <b>MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED</b>	31	Jun 1  <b>6:00pm Vespers</b> <b>Divine Liturgy for Ascension</b> <b>Fast</b>	Jun 2  <b>ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>	Jun 3  <b>Fast</b>	Jun 4  <b>5:00pm Choir Practice</b> <b>6:00pm Vespers</b>