
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAINTS PETER and PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

45 Ideal Street, Buffalo New York 14206

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APRIL 2024



WELCOME VISITORS

We hope you find your time here with us to be a true blessing from God—who knows you by name; who knows your heart; who knows your mind; and who wants to be in a spiritual relationship with you. We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Christ our Savior, as we pray joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually. If you are seriously considering a new place of worship or a relocation to our area, we would love to have you as a part of our church family. Get in touch with Father John with any questions you may have. Welcome to Saints Peter and Paul Church—we look forward to seeing you again.

THE LITURGY of the PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS will be served at 6:00pm on Wednesdays and Fridays during Great Lent. Those who will be receiving Holy Communion, the church asks you to fast from 3:00pm on. Those of stronger will and body, may fast from after your noon meal on. Let's make this spiritual journey together!

MAKING OF ALTAR BREADS an in our church kitchen will take place on SATURDAY, APRIL 20th at 11:00am. All children and adults are cordially welcomed to attend. Please inform Fr. John if you will be participating.

MAKING OF PALM CROSSES will take place on SATURDAY, APRIL 27th at 2:00pm in our parish hall. Those who wish to learn to make these crosses, please plan on attending.

LAWNMOWER NEEDED: Our parish needs a new or used (in very good condition) small, self-propelled lawnmower for around the church grounds. If you have one, or would like to donate a new one, please see Father John.

BRICK PRAYER GARDEN — If anyone would still like to purchase bricks in honor of/in memory of a family member or friend, please do so as soon as possible. THERE ARE ONLY 30 BRICKS LEFT TO BE BOUGHT. Order forms are available in the church vestibule or the Parish Hall. Any questions, please contact Father John.

CELL PHONE USE IN CHURCH: Please silence all cell phones when entering the church. And if you must immediately return a call or text—please be respectful to our Lord and others praying the Liturgy and GO INTO THE VESTIBULE OR OUTSIDE. While in church our focus should be on our Lord. Thank you for helping to keep our Divine Liturgy spiritual and beautiful.

AS YOU KNOW, OUR PARISH HALL LOWER ROOF is going to need replacing after this winter season. If you wish to give towards this BIG EXPENSE of our parish, please mark your donation "Parish Hall Roof." May our Lord bless you for helping with this expense.

A DONATION BUTTON has been placed on our website (peterandpauloca.org). Your donation can be made electronically via our website using either PayPal or a credit card/bank card. If you have any questions, see our treasurer, Vic Gadzik.

2024 SAINT ANDREW’S CAMP DATES

Week 1	July 1-5	Family Week
Week 2	July 7-13	Horse Week 1
Week 3	July 14-20	Mish Mash Week
Week 4	July 21-27	Horse Week 2
Week 5	July 28-Aug. 3	Teen Week 1 (ages 13-17)
Week 6	Aug. 4-10	Teen Week 2 (ages 13-17)

For more details, please consult their website: saintandrewscamp.org. This camp is part of the NY/NJ Deaneries and is located on 1280 State Route 49, Cleveland, NY 13042.

COFFEE HOUR UPDATE – NEW POLICY

LUNCHEON - only on the 3rd SUNDAY of each month.

TOAST/BAGELS/ENGLISH MUFFINS and DESSERT — all other SUNDAYS of each month

If you would like to bring some food items to share at our coffee hour on Sundays, sign up in the Parish Hall.

GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE — every first Sunday of the month, beginning at 9:25am sharp. Please be on time (by 9:20am) and participate in this beautiful service. Confessions can also be heard before or after Saturday Vespers, and also every Sunday before the Divine Liturgy. The censuring of the church begins promptly at 9:55am on Sundays.

BRACELETS/NECKLACES/BOOK MARKERS are on sale in our Parish Hall. They are beautifully designed and made by our own Aubriella Rodriguez and we thank her for her love to our church. All proceeds go to the church.

ORTHODOXY 101 STUDY

Every 2nd SUNDAY of the month during coffee hour in our Parish Hall

Grab your coffee/water/tea, a bagel and dessert, and sit with us as we refresh our minds on our beautiful Orthodox faith.

INVITE A FRIEND or FAMILY MEMBER to church. Encourage your relatives to attend services faithfully. It is our Christian duty to help others find Christ. The Apostle Andrew brought his brother Peter to God, so let us follow his example.

BURIAL PLOTS AVAILABLE TO BUY: Saints Peter and Paul Church owns burial plots in Riverdale Cemetery, Lewiston, New York. Cost is \$400 per plot. If interested in buying any, please contact Father John.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES: If you have asked to include a friend or relative on our Prayer List which is taken during the Divine Liturgy, and they are now better, please inform Father John to take them off this list.

SATURDAY VESPERS are held at 6:00pm. This Vespers service helps us prepare for the upcoming Sunday Divine Liturgy. Confessions are heard before and afterwards.

LENTEN TEEN RETREAT will be held on Friday, April 12th to Sunday, April 14th at Frost Valley YMCA, Claryville NY for all Middle School and High School students. This event is being sponsored by the OCA Diocese of NY/NJ Department of Youth Ministry. No fee to attend! Register by March 31st. Any questions, please contact : admin@nynjocayouth.org. Join in on a weekend of fun, prayer, and fellowship!

PLEASE REMEMBER that even though you weren't in church for some Sundays, the expenses of the church still continue. May our Lord bless those who have not forgotten the church in their weekly or monthly offerings.

HAVE YOU MOVED? NEW EMAIL ADDRESS? Please let Father John know your new contact information.

WHAT SHOULD I DO DURING GREAT LENT?

Most of us can readily identify what we should do during Great Lent: pray, fast, and give alms. It's the hows that sometime elude us!

1. Turn off the TV, the phone, and the Internet except for news, weather reports, and educational programs. Use e-mail for necessary things...period! Leave your iPod and Blackberry at home. Like the Prophet Elijah, listen for the Lord's voice in life's still, quiet moments.
2. Avoid engaging in outside activities for their own sake. Keep useless talking to a minimum. Focus on necessary business, acts of charity, your children and family, and strengthening your relationships with others, especially those with whom you have experience conflicts in the past. Get beyond what others do and discover who they are.
3. Question yourself with regard to love, truth, honesty, purity, humility, peace, forgiveness, justice, mercy, hungering and thirsting for God, wisdom and knowledge. What role do these virtues play in your life?
4. In the name of Jesus Christ, forgive everyone who has offended you, and seek forgiveness from those whom you have offended. If it will not be embarrassing or misinterpreted as an act of self-righteousness, express yourself as concretely- and personally- as possible. Visit, make a phone call, send a hand-written note, or do whatever it takes to tear down those walls that so often separate us from others.
5. Set aside a sizeable portion of your resources for others- your parish, the poor and needy, a homeless shelter or food depository...whatever. Or transform your "me time" into "thee time" by volunteering to help with those ever-present tasks around your parish or a social agency in your area. Don't tell anyone what you are doing. Ask nothing in exchange- even receipts.
6. Fast strictly and regularly- from food, from distractions, from passions, and from sinful behaviors. Suit your fast to your work schedule, but avoid luxury. Do not advertise or discuss your fasting with anyone, and avoid those endless discussions on "Lenten chocolate cake" or "how to make tofu taste like turkey" or "vegetable oil vs. olive oil", that miss the point and spirit of fasting altogether.

7. Pray at home at least at one fixed time every day. Choose a brief rule of prayer and stick to it. Participate in all the Lenten services especially St. Basil's Divine Liturgy on Sundays. Confess seriously, sincerely, and with the utmost preparation.
8. Read the Scriptures regularly. Follow the Church's daily calendars of readings, or focus on one chapter of a given book. Reflect especially on 1 John, Romans 12-14, Matthew 5-7, and John 14-17.
9. Be faithful to Christ's Gospel in every word, action, and thought- even the smallest or most insignificant. Master those "little things," knowing that God will bless you with things that are far greater!

WHAT DO WE COMMEMORATE ON THE SUNDAYS DURING LENT?

APRIL 7: On this 3rd Sunday of Lent, the Cross on which Christ died is honored, the most important Sunday of Great Lent. This is the half-way point of the long journey of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. The Veneration of the Holy Cross reminds the faithful how Jesus carried the cross, letting no obstacle prevent Him from carrying it to the end. It is the same with the life of the Christian during Lent. Pascha (Easter) is reached only through the crucifixion of one's passions. A cross is carried in procession to the middle of the church during the Divine Liturgy and left there all week for veneration as a symbol of strength.

APRIL 14: This being the 4th Sunday of Lent, the Church commemorates St. John Climacus (6th century) who is the writer of the book called "The Ladder of Paradise." This book contains 30 chapters, with each chapter as a step leading up to a faithful and pious life as the climax of a Christian life. The spirit of repentance and devotion to Christ dominates the essence of this book, along with the monastic virtues and vices. He was an ascetic and writer on the spiritual life as a monk-abbot of Sinai Monastery. These steps of the ladder as set forth by St. John are to be practiced by the Christian especially during this period of Lent. Each step leading to the top step of the ladder, is the climactic essence of the true meaning of a Christian life.

APRIL 21: This 5th Sunday commemorates the life of St. Mary of Egypt, who is a shining example of repentance from sin through prayer and fasting. She lived a sinful life for many years, but was converted to a Christian life. She went into the wilderness to live an ascetic life for many years, praying and fasting in repentance of her life from sin to holiness through repentance. Her understanding of repentance involved not a mere change from small things in her life, but an extreme change of her entire attitude and thoughts. The Church commemorates St. Mary of Egypt for her recognition of her own sins as an example of how one can free oneself from the slavery and burden of wrongdoings. This recognition of sin is imperative during Lent for the faithful as a means of self-examination and preparation for a more virtuous life in anticipation of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ.

APRIL 27: an interlude between Lent and Holy Week, the Church names this day the "Saturday of Lazarus" in remembrance of the resurrection of Lazarus told in the Gospel of John (11:1-45) and its promise of universal resurrection for all men. The Church connects this celebration, by anticipation, with the Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday).

APRIL 28: Palm Sunday celebrates the glorious and brilliant feast of the Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (John 12-1-18). Zechariah had prophesied the entrance of the Messiah into Jerusalem saying: "Rejoice greatly...O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, the King comes unto you; He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass", (Zech. 9:9). The contemporary Jews associated this prophecy with the

UPCOMING EVENTS at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Wednesday	April 3	6pm: LITURGY of Presanctified Gifts
Friday	April 5	6pm: LITURGY of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday	April 6	9:30am: Women's Lenten Retreat-St. George's-Niagara Falls, NY 6pm: VESPERS with All Souls Memorial
Sunday	April 7	3rd Sunday of Great Lent / Cross Veneration <u>9:25am</u> : GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE/Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours <u>10am</u> : DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil <u>2pm</u> : Baptism of June DeVantier <u>6pm</u> : Council of Orthodox Churches VESPERS @Sts. Cyril and Methodios Macedonian Orthodox Church (Lake Avenue)
Wednesday	April 10	6pm: LITURGY of Presanctified Gifts
Friday	April 12	6pm: LITURGY of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday	April 13	6pm: VESPERS with All Souls Memorial
Sunday	April 14	4th Sunday of Great Lent / St. John Climacus 9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours 10am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil "Orthodoxy 101" class 6pm: Council of Orthodox Churches VESPERS @Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Wednesday	April 17	6pm: LITURGY of Presanctified Gifts
Friday	April 19	6pm: LITURGY of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday	April 20	11am: Baking of Prosfhora (altar breads — all are welcome!) 6pm: VESPERS
Sunday	April 21	5th Sunday of Great Lent / St. Mary of Egypt 9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours 10am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil 6pm: Council of Orthodox Churches VESPERS @St. George's Orthodox Church (Nottingham Terrace)
Wednesday	April 24	6pm: LITURGY of Presanctified Gifts
Friday	April 26	6pm: LITURGY of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday	April 27	Lazarus Saturday (No Divine Liturgy) 2pm: Making of palm crosses in parish hall 6pm: VESPERS

Sunday	April 28	Palm Sunday 9:25am: GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE/Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours 10am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom Blessing of palms/pussywillows 6pm: BRIDEGROOM MATINS
Monday	April 29	6pm: BRIDEGROOM MATINS
Tuesday	April 30	6pm: BRIDEGROOM MATINS
Wednesday	May 1	6pm: HOLY UNCTION SERVICE
Thursday	May 2	6pm: READING of the 12 PASSION GOSPELS
Friday	May 3	6pm: GOOD FRIDAY MATINS / LAMENTATIONS / Procession around the church
Saturday	May 4	10am: VESPERS with Liturgy of St. Basil (for anticipation of the Resurrection) 11am: NOCTURNS / RESURRECTION MATINS Blessing of Paschal Baskets
Sunday	May 5	PASCHA 10am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom Blessing of Paschal Baskets Easter Egg Hunt in our parish hall

WISDOM OF THE CHURCH FATHERS

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS (ST. JOHN THE LADDER)

Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience.

ST. SERAPHIM OF SAROV

God is the fire that warms and kindles the heart and inward parts. Hence, if we feel in our hearts the cold which comes from the devil- for the devil is cold- let us call on the Lord. He will come to warm our hearts with perfect love, not only for Him but also for our neighbor, and the good will flee before the heat of His countenance.

ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT

I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, "What can get through from such snares?" Then I heard a voice saying to me, "Humility."

ST. TIKHON OF VORONEZH—WONDERWORKER OF ALL RUSSIA

God descends to the humble as waters flow down from the hills into the valleys.

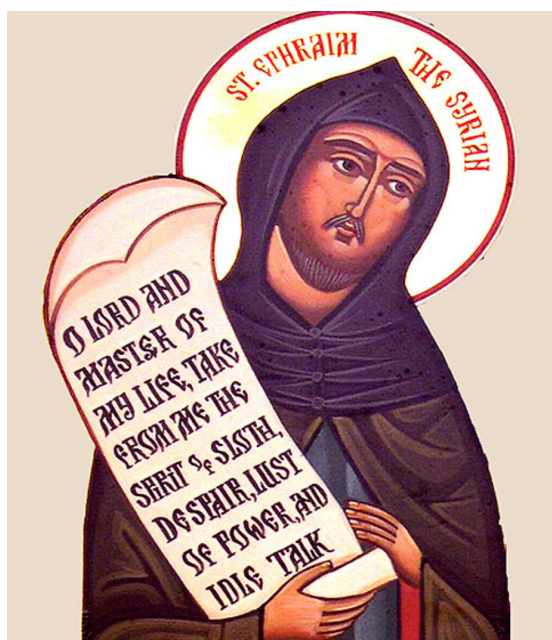
LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

O Lord and Master of my life!

Take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness,
lust of power, and idle talk.

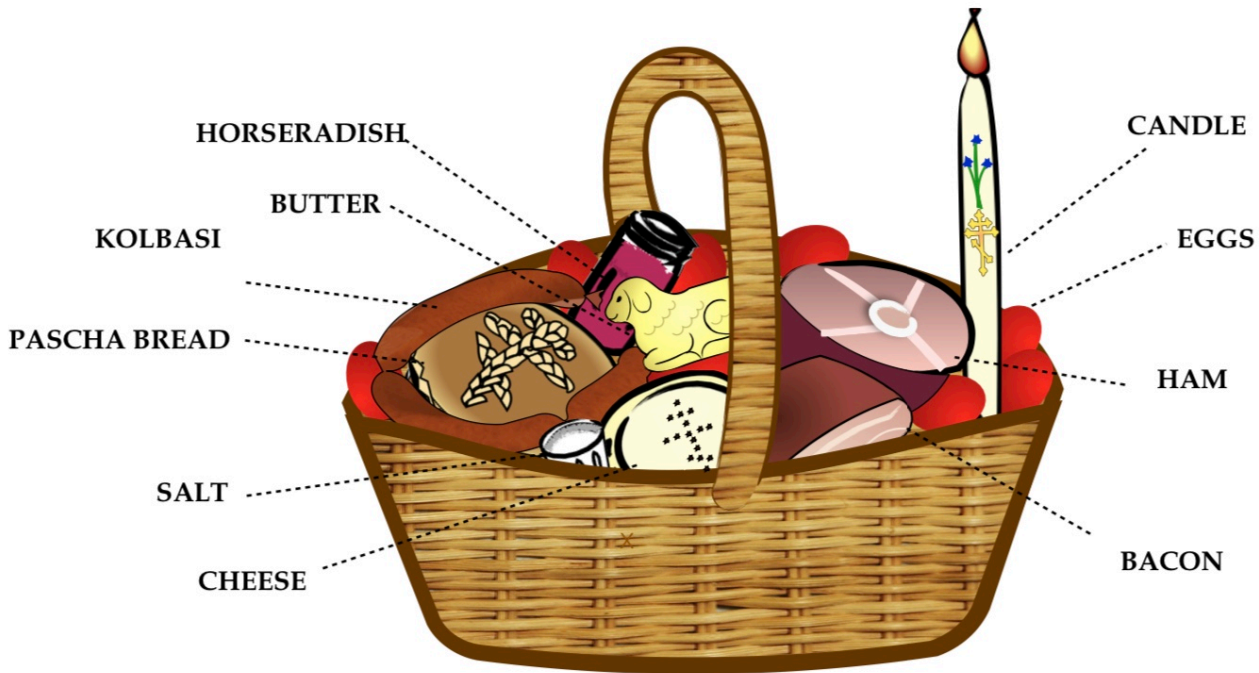
But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility,
patience, and love to Your servant.

Yes, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own sins
and not to judge my brother, for You are blessed
unto ages of ages. Amen.



HOW TO PUT TOGETHER A TRADITIONAL EASTER BASKET

"TEXT ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY FR. BASIL KRAYNYAK, GCU MESSENGER, APRIL, 1979" ILLUSTRATED BY FR. JONATHAN BANNON



PASCHA - The Easter Bread (Pron. Pa-ska.) A sweet yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross (+) of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait given it a crowned effect or Greek

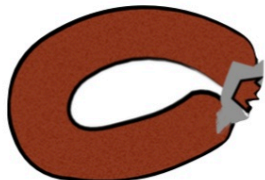
CHEESE - (Rusyn: Hrudka or Sirec) A custard type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also creamed cheese is placed in a small dish and both are decorated with symbols (see Pascha) out of cloves or pepper balls.



HAM - (Rusyn: Šunka - pron. shoon-ka.) The Flesh meat popular with the Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer Lamb or Veal. This is usually well roasted or cooked as well as other meats so the festivity of the day will not be burdened with preparation and all may enjoy the Feast.

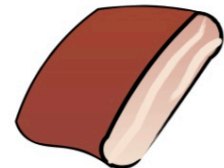


BUTTER - (Rusyn: Maslo pron. ma-slo.) This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a figure of a Lamb or small cross and decorated as the cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

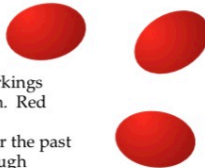


SAUSAGE (Rusyn: Kolbasi-pron. kol-bus-i.) A spicy, garlic sausage of pork products indicative of God's flavor and generosity.

BACON - (Rusyn: Slanina pron. sla-ni-na) A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy to us.



EGGS (Rusyn: Pisanki pron. pi-sun-ki) Hardboiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and markings made with beeswax, indicative of new life and resurrection. Red eggs are also traditional date back to a story with St. Mary Magdalene. Having been dyed with onion skins saved over the past year, red shows the color of life and victory that came through Christ's blood.



SALT - (Rusyn: Sol' pron. sol') A condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.



HORSERADISH (Rusyn: Chrin pron. khirin) Horseradish mixed with grated red beets (optional) symbolizes the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter-sweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.

These articles are placed in a wicker basket. A decorated candle is placed inside and is lit at the time of the blessing. A linen cover usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbol with the words "Christ is Risen" is placed over the food when brought to the Church.

In some places a large Easter Bread (Pascha) is made and brought separately in a large linen cloth. If the origin of the people was from a wine growing area, a sweet wine may be brought

