
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAINTS PETER and PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

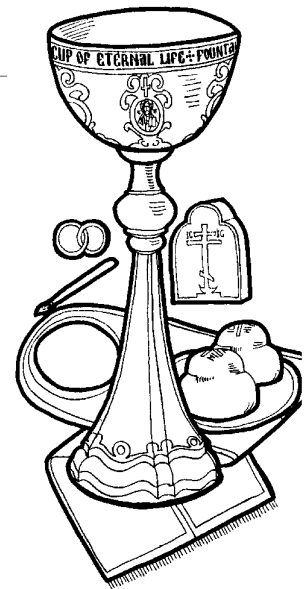
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AUGUST 2024



SERVICE SCHEDULE

- VESPERS — every Saturday, 6:00pm
- DIVINE LITURGY — every Sunday, 10:00am
- GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE — 1st Sunday of every month, 9:25am

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 Orthodox Church—we look forward to seeing you again.

CHURCH PICNIC THANKS: Thank you to all those who attended our church family picnic on July 21st, to those who brought food and drinks and games, to those who organized the day and ran all the games, and to those who helped to set up and clean up. We had 53 people participate and everyone truly had a great time!

PICK A BRICK — Bricks are still available for our “Brick Prayer Garden.” Wedding dates, in memory of someone dear to your heart, current parishioners’ names—be a part of our church history and support our church with this fundraiser. Cost is \$100/brick. We would like to get all brick orders in ASAP in order to place them in the ground before October. Any questions, see Nadia Ryan or Father John.

A DONATION BUTTON is on our church website (peterandpauloca.org). Your donation can be made electronically via our website using either PayPal or a credit card/bank card.

DUE TO A PRIVACY ACT put into law...no hospital will call the parish and say that you are a patient there. If you or someone in your family goes into the hospital, **please notify Father John**. Feel free to call him at any time.

CAN WE GET AT LEAST 3 DONORS FROM OUR BUFFALO CHURCH for the DDB (Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor) Campaign for our NY/NJ Diocese? ***What are these funds used for?*** — educational programs, sponsoring seminarians entering seminary, camping programs, helping parishes fix up their rectory so priests have a nice home to live in (like they helped our parish with our rectory, “Operation Buffalo” a number of years ago). ANY AMOUNT can be donated. It is their hope that EVERY PARISH have a few donors in this extremely important Diocesan campaign. Please see Father John if you can donate.

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 her church. All proceeds go to the church.

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.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES: If you have asked to include a friend or relative on our Liturgy Prayer List, remember to please inform Father John when he can 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. It is a beautiful service. Come and see!

ST. JOSAPHAT'S UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL

- Thursday — Sunday, August 15-18, 2024
- Ukrainian Folk Dancing, Ukrainian Arts & Crafts, Ukrainian Food, Church Tours
- St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church—940 Ridge Road East, Rochester NY 14621

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.

DON'T HESITATE to invite a family member or friend to church one Sunday. You could even offer them a ride!



SEVEN HOLY YOUTHS OF EPHESU – AUGUST 4

The Seven Youths hid themselves in a certain cave near Ephesus in the year 250 to escape the persecution of Decius. By divine grace, a sleep came upon them and they slept for 184 years, until the reign of St. Theodosius the Younger, when the doctrine of the Resurrection was being assailed by heretics. They then awoke, that is, were resurrected, confirming in the sight of all the bodily resurrection; and again after a short time, by divine command, they reposed in the Lord in the year 434.

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST – AUGUST 6

The feast commemorates the transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor, when our Lord appeared in His divine glory before the Apostles Peter, James and John. The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 17: 1-9, Mark 9: 2-8, and Luke 9:28-35. 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.

LAURENCE THE HOLY MARTYR AND ARCHDEACON OF ROME – AUGUST 10

This saint, who was born in Spain, was the Archdeacon of the Church of Rome, caring for the sacred vessels of the Church and distributing money to the needy. About the year 257, a harsh persecution was raised up against the Christians by Valerian. Pope Sixtus, who was from Athens, was commanded to worship the idols, and refused; before his martyrdom by beheading, he committed to Laurence all the sacred vessels of the Church. When Laurence was arrested and brought before the Prefect, he was questioned concerning the treasures of the Church; he asked for three days time to prepare them. He then proceeded to gather all the poor and needy, and presented them to the Prefect and said, “Behold the treasures of the Church.” The Prefect became enraged at this and gave command that Laurence be racked, then scourged with scorpions (a whip furnished with sharp iron points—compare II Chron. 10:11), then stretched out on a red-hot iron grill. But the courageous athlete of Christ endured without groaning. After he had been burned on one side, he said, “My body is done on one side; turn me over on the other.” And when this had taken place, the Martyr said to the tyrants, “My flesh is now well done, you may taste of it.” And when he had said this, and had prayed for his slayers in imitation of Christ, he gave up his spirit on August 10th, 258.

FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY – AUGUST 15

The Feast commemorates the repose or “falling asleep” of the Mother of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos. The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, “Woman, behold your son!” and to John, “Behold your mother!” (John 19:25-27). From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home. Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed.

At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ Himself descended and carried her soul into heaven. Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.

EUTYCHES THE HIEROMARTYR AND DISCIPLE OF ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN – AUGUST 24

Saint Eutyches was a disciple of Saint John the Theologian and a fellow laborer of the holy Apostle Paul. He preached the Gospel in many places, pulled down the idols’ temples, and suffered imprisonments and many torments at the hands of the idolaters. He finally reposed in peace in deep old age in his native city of Sebastia, near Tarsus.

WHAT WE RECEIVE EVERY TIME we partake of Holy Communion is well summarized in one of the beautiful prayers of thanksgiving that we are all called to say after the Divine Liturgy:

“I thank You, Lord, that You have permitted me, although unworthy, to receive Your pure and heavenly gifts. O loving Master, who died and rose for our sake, and granted to us these awesome and life-giving Mysteries for the well-being and sanctification of our souls and bodies, let these Gifts be for healing of my own soul and body, the averting of every evil, the illumination of the eyes of my heart, the peace of my spiritual powers, as faith unashamed, a love unfeigned, the fulfilling of wisdom, the observing of Your commandments, the receiving of Your divine grace, and the inheritance of Your kingdom. Preserved by them in Your holiness, may I always be mindful of Your grace and no longer live for myself, but for You, my Master and Benefactor.”

And in our Lord’s Resurrection He offers us His healing grace through the Holy Gifts of His Most precious Body and Blood. In reverence and awe, let us truly give thanks every week, in every Divine Liturgy, in every instance when we gather “to make God present” here, in our midst, in our Church, in our lives!

SAYINGS FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS

God became human so that humans could become God. ~ Saint Athanasios

We should believe that divine grace is present in the icon of Christ, and that it communicates sanctification to those who draw near with faith. ~ St. Theodore the Studite

Become what you already are, find Him who is already yours, listen to Him who never ceases speaking to you, possess Him who already possesses you! ~ St. Gregory of Sinai

Have great care of your children. We live at a time when much freedom is given to the expression of thought, but little care is taken that thoughts should be founded on truth. Teach them to love truth. ~ Elder Macarius of Optina

The love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together. Men will take up arms and even sacrifice their lives for the sake of this love... Because when harmony prevails, the children are raised well, the household is kept in order, and neighbors, friends, and relatives praise the result. Great benefits, both for families and states, are thus produced. When it is otherwise, however, everything is thrown into confusion and turned upside-down.

~ St. John Chrysostom

HAPPINESS

Realize that true happiness lies within you.

Waste no time and effort searching for peace, contentment, and joy in the world outside.

Remember that there is no happiness in having or in getting...but only in giving.

Reach out! Share! Smile! Hug!

Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself!!

UPCOMING EVENTS at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

- Thursday, August 1** DORMITION FAST BEGINS!
6:00pm: Akathist to the Theotokos
- Saturday, August 3** 6:00pm: Vespers
- Sunday, August 4** 9:25am: General Service of Confession/Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy
- Monday, August 5** 6:00pm: Vespereal Liturgy for TRANSFIGURATION of our LORD on Mt. Tabor
 Blessing of fruits & vegetables
- Wednesday, August 7** 6:00pm: Akathist to the Theotokos
- Saturday, August 10** 6:00pm: Vespers
- Sunday, August 11** 9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy
 Blessing of fruits & vegetables
- Wednesday, August 14** 6:00pm: Vespereal Liturgy for DORMITION of THEOTOKOS
 Blessing of flowers & herbs
- Saturday, August 17** NO VESPERS
- Sunday, August 18** 9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy
 Blessing of flowers & herbs
- Saturday, August 24** 3:30pm: Sacrament of Marriage—*Martin Napierski and Sharon Hoffman*
 NO VESPERS
- Sunday, August 25** 9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday, August 28** 6:00pm: Vespereal Liturgy for Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- Thursday, August 29** STRICT FAST DAY for Feastday of Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- Saturday, August 31** Parish Council Conference, Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Endicott NY
2:00pm: Sacrament of Marriage—*Steven Moskaluk and Madeline Nepokroeff*
 NO VESPERS
- Sunday, September 1** 9:25am: General Service of Confession/Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy