



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAINTS PETER and PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

45 Ideal Street, Buffalo New York 14206

Mailing Address: 44 Benzinger Street, Buffalo New York 14206

Archpriest John P. Hutnyan

Cell Phone: 716.681.0302. Email: humbkservant@live.com

FEBRUARY 2024

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to Saints Peter and Paul Church—no matter where you come from, or where you are going; no matter what you believe or what you doubt; no matter what you feel, or do not feel. 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. Thank you for being with us, we look forward to seeing you again.

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.

KITCHEN REPAIRS

We had to replace our grease trap in our Parish Hall kitchen, and new pvc pipes under the sink were installed. If you wish to donate towards this expense of our parish, please mark on your check “Parish Hall Kitchen.”

THE TRADITION OF THE BLESSING OF CANDLES will take place this Sunday in honor of the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple, in which Christ is the Light of the world, as we must also be!

OUR PARISH HALL LOWER ROOF is going to need replacing after this winter season. As you can recall, some 14 months ago we installed a new rubber membrane roof on the upper roof of the hall. This year we are going to have to replace the lower roof. 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 we will be incurring.

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 or Matushka Nancy.

FAST FREE WEEK - FEBRUARY 26 through MARCH 2

The consuming of meat products during this week is permitted in the Orthodox Church. The Church instructs us to be like that of the Publican (the tax collector who cried out to our Lord for forgiveness) and not that of the Pharisee (who was boastful of his life and full of pride).

AS IS THE CUSTOM OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH, our individual homes are blessed by our priest after the blessing of water. If you wish to have your home blessed to bring the joy of our Lord's Baptism to your home for the upcoming year, please inform Father John.

COFFEE HOUR UPDATE – NEW POLICY

- 1) We will have a luncheon for coffee hour ONLY ON THE 3rd SUNDAY of each month.
- 2) The other Sundays will be ONLY BAGELS AND DESSERTS.

If you would like to bring some food items to share at our coffee hour on Sundays, please sign up in the Parish Hall. Don't want to cook or bake? We will gladly accept cash to buy our supply of bagels and cream cheese.

GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE is held every first Sunday of the month, and begins 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.

SAINTS PETER & PAUL YOUTH FUNDRAISER: Our youth are sponsoring an "Adopt an Envelope Fundraiser Challenge." ***How it works:*** take an envelope off the board in the church vestibule, place the \$\$ amount on the envelope inside (cash or check made out to Ss. Peter & Paul Church), and place your sealed envelope in the offering basket or candle donation box. All the envelopes have been decorated with love by our parish children to help raise money for our much needed church building repairs. Thank you and God bless you for supporting our children's efforts.

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 our 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.

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. Order forms are available in the church vestibule or the Parish Hall. Any questions, please contact Father John.

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.

GREAT LENT begins this year on Monday, March 18th.

LENTEN WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held from Friday, March 22nd to Sunday, March 24th at St. Andrew's Camp & Retreat Center. Cost: \$125 for the weekend; \$50 for Saturday only.

Keynote Speaker will be Presvytera Krista Fedorchak, who is an Orthodox Christian, wife, and registered dietitian alike. Informed by a non-diet eating approach and rooted in the wisdom of the Orthodox Faith, Krista works together with clients on a path towards healing their relationship with food and accomplishing health goals through small, sustainable lifestyle changes. Also attending will be Archbishop Michael. For more information, call: 315.868.4138 or email: kristy@saintandrewscamp.org.

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!

SING TO THE LORD —Interested in singing in the church choir? Please see Father John during coffee hour or contact him by cell phone for more information. Our Church Fathers tell us that when you sing, you pray twice.

2024 CHURCH WALL CALENDARS are available in our church vestibule. The cost is \$10 per calendar. These beautiful Orthodox calendars inform us of the many feasts and saints days.

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? Please let Father John know your new contact information.

THE GREAT THIRST

Why go to church? People may give various answers...

1. I like being there.
2. Someone expects me to be there.
3. I meet my friends or my family there.
4. I feel inspired when I go there.

People also give various reasons why not to go to church...

1. I don't like it there.
2. I can pray on my own better outside of church.
3. I want to sleep in.
4. I'm busy.

The reason to go to church is worship. While it is possible to think about God, to love God, to learn about God, and even to praise God outside of a church — and there can be a worshipful aspect to those activities— the fullness of worship is only to be found in the eucharistic community, whose worship includes not only those

moments when Holy Communion (Eucharist) is received, but also the whole liturgical tradition. Even when Holy Communion is not received, the services of the Orthodox Church, pre-suppose their center on the Eucharist, and their inherent physicality, their involvement of the body, puts us into contact with the God, who became incarnate, taking on a body.

Real worship, requires community, and because the community is led in its worship by an ordained sacramental priesthood, the fullness of worship just isn't available outside the community. It would be like a child out on his own, insisting that he is a family. He can't become a family when he grows up either, as long as he is by himself. Just as family life requires a family, worship always involves a community, and just as a family needs parents, the church needs its priesthood. All these elements work together to bring us into communion with Christ, and through Him, and in Him, with His Father and the Holy Spirit.

UPCOMING EVENTS at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday	Feb. 3	6pm: <i>VESPERS</i>
Sunday	Feb. 4	9:25am: <i>GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE/READING of 3rd/6th HOURS</i> 10am: <i>DIVINE LITURGY</i> Memorial Service: Daniel Metz/Memorial Luncheon offered by Metz Family Parish Council Meeting
Saturday	Feb. 10	6pm: <i>VESPERS</i>
Sunday	Feb. 11	9:30am: <i>READING of 3rd/6th HOURS</i> 10am: <i>DIVINE LITURGY</i> Orthodoxy 101 Class during Coffee Hour
Saturday	Feb. 17	6pm: <i>VESPERS</i>
Sunday	Feb. 18	9:30am: <i>READING of 3rd/6th HOURS</i> 10am: <i>DIVINE LITURGY</i> —Sunday of Zacchaeus
Saturday	Feb. 24	6pm: <i>VESPERS</i>
Sunday	Feb. 25	9:30am: <i>READING of 3rd/6th HOURS</i> 10am: <i>DIVINE LITURGY</i> —Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Memorial Service: Hans & Svetlana Graef and Joseph & Irene Janikowski
Wednesday	Feb. 28	FAST FREE DAY — due to Sunday of Publican and Pharisee
Friday	Mar. 1	FAST FREE DAY — due to Sunday of Publican and Pharisee

CHURCH CLOSINGS DUE TO WEATHER!

In case of bad weather and you are wondering if our services are cancelled, please check the following TV stations:

WGRZ — TV Channel 2 OR wgrz.com

WKBW — TV Channel 7 OR wkbw.com

WIVB — wivb.com (they do NOT list churches or organizations on TV, just online)