



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: humblservant@live.com

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CHRIST IS BORN! “Come, believers; Run to greet the Creator! He comes to earth, dawning from the Virgin. Let us be illumined in purity; Let us shine with the star of righteousness; Let us make ready with fear and joy, that with purified eyes we may see Christ being born; He makes us mortals divine; He raises us to the heights of godliness.”
*We hope you had a joyous Christmas, and we wish you good health and much happiness in the new year!
Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christos Razdajetsja! Slavite Jeho! — Father John & Matushka Nancy Hutnyan*

TO OUR 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.

A FAST FREE SEASON IS OBSERVED in the Orthodox Church from the Nativity of Christ (December 25) to January 5th (which is a STRICT FAST DAY—no meat or dairy products permitted). Orthodox Christians are permitted to eat meat products on Wednesdays and Fridays between these two dates because of the glorious Nativity of the Infant Messiah.

THANK YOU to all those who tendered us with cards and gifts this Nativity of our Lord season. May the Infant Messiah bless you abundantly for your thoughtfulness. — *Father John and Matushka Nancy*

CELL PHONE USE IN CHURCH: Please silence all cell phones when entering the church. Unless you are a doctor, law enforcement, emergency medical personnel or firefighter, there is no urgent necessity to be on your phone during Divine Liturgy, the sermon and announcements. 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 to **Ekaterina Markova and Tim Harper** for their kind donations to purchase the small electric hot water heater for our church lavatory in our church vestibule. **Thank you to Vic and Karen Gadzik and Dave DeVantier** for hooking the heater up, both water and electric. Now enjoy washing your hands in hot/warm water!

WATER WILL BE BLESSED FOR THE FEAST DAY OF THEOPHANY on Sunday, January 7th at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Please make sure to bring your containers to fill up that day,

AS IS THE CUSTOM OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH, our individual homes are blessed by Father John 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 (change may be needed)

If you would like to bring some food items to share at our coffee hour on Sundays, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. ***If we do not get more people signing up, we will have fewer "lunch coffee hours" and more "bagel coffee hours."***

GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE is held every first Sunday of the month, and begins at 9:25am. 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.

THANK YOU to John Truett and Tim Harper for cleaning our grease trap in the fellowship hall kitchen, and also for fixing the leaky sink drain and faucet handle.

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 Sts. 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 Fellowship Hall. They are beautifully designed and made by our own Aubriella Rodriguez. All proceeds go to our church.

ORTHODOXY 101 STUDY

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

Grab your coffee/water, a bagel and dessert, and sit with us as we refresh our minds on our beautiful, Orthodox faith. We have designated the 2nd Sunday each month as "BAGELS AND DESSERTS ONLY SUNDAY" so there will not be any major cleanup which we typically have after our fellowship luncheon meals.

IF ANY UPDATES TO YOUR "ALL SOULS MEMORIAL LISTINGS" please inform Father John. This list includes all of your departed relatives and friends you wish commemorated for the Sunday Divine Liturgy and on All Souls Saturdays during the liturgical year.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS vs. the BUFFALO BILLS PARTY — SUNDAY, December 31st, 1pm

Starts right after Divine Liturgy in our Fellowship Hall. Adults: \$10; Children 12 & under FREE. Pizza and wings will be provided. If you can, bring a side dish, dessert or munchie . Join us once again for fellowship as a church family. (You do not have to watch the game to attend!)

BRING A FRIEND along with you 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 fellowship hall. Any questions, please contact Father John. The already donated and engraved bricks have been placed in our “Brick Prayer Garden” on the side of our church outside. Please go out and look at this beautiful job nearly completed. Let's add more bricks to this beautiful and thoughtful remembrance.

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.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES?

Every Sunday plus special feast days.

Every Sunday.

Almost every Sunday.

Twice a month.

Once a month.

A few times a year.

Not sure, but every time I go there are either poinsettias or lilies everywhere!

THE LEGEND OF ST. BASIL'S BREAD (Vasilopita): The Saint Basil's bread commemorates a miracle performed by St. Basil (commemorated on January 1st) while serving as a bishop. The legend varies as to how St. Basil became the guardian of the gold, silver, and jewelry of the people of Caesarea. Some say thieves had taken the valuables from the village, and they were recovered. Others say it was a tax the government asked St. Basil to collect, but then decided to cancel. In either case, St. Basil became responsible for returning the riches to the people. However, they could not agree on the rightful owners. St. Basil suggested that the women bake the valuables inside a large pita. When he cut the pita, each owner miraculously received the right valuable. Today, a single coin is baked inside each loaf of bread to honor this miracle, and the recipient of the slice with the coin in it has good luck for the coming year. We will have the cutting of the vasilopita after Liturgy on Sunday, December 31st (the day before the feast).

PRAYER LIST: 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.

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 now on sale 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday	Dec. 30	6pm: <i>VESPERS</i>
Sunday	Dec. 31	9:30am: <i>READING of 3rd/6th HOURS</i> 10am: <i>DIVINE LITURGY</i> Cutting of Saint Basil's bread 1pm: Patriots/Bills Game Party in Fellowship Hall
Monday	Jan. 1	New Year's Day—Happy 2024! Feast of Saint Basil; Feast of Circumcision of our Lord (NO LITURGY)
Friday	Jan. 5	Pre-Theophany — STRICT FAST DAY
Saturday	Jan. 6	Theophany of our Lord (transferred to tomorrow) 6pm: <i>VESPERS</i>
Sunday	Jan. 7	9:25am: <i>GENERAL CONFESSION SERVICE / READING OF HOURS</i> 10am: <i>DIVINE LITURGY</i> —Blessing of Water afterwards Memorial: departed Protopresbyter Michael Slovesko Parish Council Meeting
Saturday	Jan. 13	6pm: <i>VESPERS</i>
Sunday	Jan. 14	9:30am: <i>READING of 3rd/6th HOURS</i> 10am: <i>DIVINE LITURGY</i> <i>Memorial: all departed priests who have served our parish</i> <i>"Orthodoxy 101" class in Fellowship Hall</i>
Saturday	Jan. 20	6pm: <i>VESPERS</i>
Sunday	Jan. 21	9:30am: <i>READING of 3rd/6th HOURS</i> 10am: <i>DIVINE LITURGY</i>
Saturday	Jan. 27	6pm: <i>VESPERS</i>
Sunday	Jan. 28	9:30am: <i>READING of 3rd/6th HOURS</i> 10am: <i>DIVINE LITURGY</i> Memorial: departed Protopresbyter Michael & Pani Eleanor Polanichka and Protopresbyter Ronald & Pani Dolores Hazuda
Tuesday	Jan. 30	Feast of Three Hierarchs (transferred to Sunday) NO LITURGY