
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAINTS PETER and PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

45 Ideal Street, Buffalo New York 14206

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JULY 2024

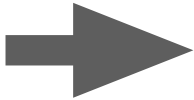


SERVICE SCHEDULE

- 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.



OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC will be held on **Sunday, July 21st** on our church grounds.

Coinciding with this, we will have the “**Blessing of Vehicles**” after the Divine Liturgy. Please sign-up to bring something for the church picnic (if you are able to) and bring your vehicles to be blessed! Feel free to bring your lawn chairs as we will be eating outside (weather permitting).

Making a church survive and be alive is not just the responsibility of the priest. Attend our church family picnic, introduce yourself to our new members and welcome them. New members—introduce yourself to our long-time existing members, and enjoy the fellowship of each other! A church grows not just by people attending Divine Liturgy, it also grows with the fellowship, and that fellowship makes everyone excited to be a part of our church. Plan on spending the day with your church family!

THANK YOU to all who donated towards the Diocese of Alaska collection. May our Lord bless you for your generous donations of \$554 to help support the priests and spread Orthodoxy in Alaska!

CONGRATULATIONS to *Joniel Seraphim Valentin*, who was baptized and chrismated into the Orthodox Faith on Sunday, June 30th. His sponsor was Matushka Nancy Hutnyan. Welcome as an official member of Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church!

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.

ENJOY and SUPPORT OUR FELLOW ORTHODOX CHURCHES IN WNY...

STS. CYRIL AND METHODIOS MADEDONIAN FESTIVAL—BLASDELL, NY

Friday, July 12: 4-midnight
Saturday, July 13: noon-midnight
Sunday, July 14: noon-9pm

Come and enjoy our traditional desserts, ethnic foods and live dance performances!

ST. STEPHEN'S SERBIAN FESTIVAL—LACKAWANNA, NY

Friday, July 26: 4-10pm
Saturday, July 27 12noon-12am
Sunday, July 28 12-10pm

All are welcome to attend and enjoy our delicious Serbian foods and desserts! See you there!

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.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES and PUT THEM AWAY upon entering church for Liturgy. Please be respectful to our Lord and others praying the Liturgy and GO INTO THE VESTIBULE OR OUTSIDE if you absolutely must return a call or answer a text. While in church our focus should be on our Lord. Thank you for helping to keep our Divine Liturgy spiritual, and for being a good example to our children and teenagers.

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 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. It is a beautiful service. Come and see!

MISSED A SUNDAY LITURGY?? Remember the expenses of the church still continue week after week. 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.

2024 SAINT ANDREW'S CAMP DATES

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.

ON SUNDAY, JULY 28TH A SPECIAL COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy for the **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry**. This is being sanctioned by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops.

America’s tragically high incarceration rate (2.3 million) means that—chances are—more than one parishioner has been touched by a person serving time in prison. As the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) supports prisoners’ unique spiritual needs through long term case management and provides resources and training to parishes and clergy, enabling them to offer local solutions and fulfill Christ’s command to visit Him in prison.

Please be generous in your offering to this worthwhile organization. If paying by check, please make it out to “Ss. Peter and Paul”, so that we may send one check at the end of July. May our Lord bless you for your thoughtfulness and generosity..

BRICK PRAYER GARDEN — If anyone would still like to purchase bricks in honor of or 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. Haven’t seen our “Brick Prayer Garden?” While facing the front of the church, take the sidewalk to the left. Check it out!

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.

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE who should be attending Divine Liturgy, please invite them to come and pray with us. You could even offer them a ride!

FROM THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

COSMAS AND DAMIAN, THE HOLY UNMERCENARIES OF ASIA, AND THEIR MOTHER THEODOTA—JULY 1

These saints were from Asia (that is, Asia Minor). After the death of their father, their Christ-loving mother Theodota reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue, and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike; because of this, they are called “Unmercenaries.” And thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace.

KYRIAKI, THE GREAT MARTYR—JULY 7

Saint Kyriaki was the daughter of Christian parents, Dorotheus and Eusebia. She was given her name because she was born on Sunday, the day of the Lord (in Greek, Kyriaki). She contested in Nicomedia during the reign of Diocletian, in the year 300. After many bitter torments she was condemned to suffer beheading, but being granted time to pray first, she made her prayer and gave up her holy soul in peace.

THE ALL-PRAISED OLGA, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES, PRINCESS OF KIEV—JULY 11

Saint Olga, renowned for her wisdom and sobriety, in her youth became the wife of Igor, Great Prince of Kiev, who ruled during the tenth century. After her husband’s death, she herself ruled capably, and was finally moved to accept the Faith of Christ. She traveled to Constantinople to receive Holy Baptism. The Emperor, seeing her outward beauty and inward greatness, asked her to marry him. She said she could not do this before she was baptized (receiving the name of Helen), the Emperor repeated his proposal of marriage. She answered that now he was her father, through holy Baptism, and that not even among the heathen was it heard of a man marrying his daughter. Gracefully accepting to be outwitted by her, he sent her back to her land with priests and sacred texts and holy icons. Although her son Svyatoslav remained a pagan, she planted the seed of faith in her grandson Vladimir. She reposed in peace in 969 A.D.

VLADIMIR, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES OF KIEV—JULY 15

Grandson of St. Olga, St. Vladimir ascended the throne of Kiev in 980. Through a zealous idolater, he was illumined by the grace of God, accepted the Christian Faith, and completely changed his ways. He was baptized in Cherson in 988, receiving the name Basil; he came forth from the font not only healed of a blindness lately afflicting him, but also from being passionate and warlike, he became meek, peaceable, and exceedingly godly. Whereas his grandmother had refused marriage with the Emperor in Constantinople, he married Anna, sister of the Emperors Basil and Constantine, and was accompanied home by priests from Constantinople. Diligently seeking to spread Christianity throughout his realm like a new Constantine, he destroyed the idols (having the chief deity Perun scourged and then cast into the Dnieper River), and summoned all his subjects to Holy Baptism. He reposed in peace in 1015.

HOLY GREAT MARTYR MARINA (MARGARET)—JULY 17

This martyr lived during the reign of Claudius II (268-270). She was from Pisidia of Cilicia and was the only daughter of a certain priest of the idols. On being orphaned by her mother, she was handed over to a certain woman who instructed her in the Faith of Christ. When she was fifteen years old, she was apprehended by the ruler of Olmbrius, and when asked her name, homeland, and faith, she answered: “My name is Marina; I am the offspring of the Pisidia; I call upon the Name of my Lord Jesus Christ.” Because of this she endured bonds, imprisonment, and many whippings, and was finally beheaded in the year 270. St. Marina is especially invoked for deliverance from demonic possession.

THE GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS (ELIJAH)—JULY 20

Elias of great fame was from Thisbe or Thesbe, a town of Galaad (Gilead), beyond the Jordan. He was of priestly lineage, a man of a solitary and ascetical character, clothed in a mantle of sheep skin, and girded about his loins with a leather belt. His name is interpreted as “Yah is my God.” His zeal for the glory of God was compared to fire, and his speech for teaching and rebuke was likened unto a burning lamp. From this too he received the name Zealot. Therefore, set aflame with such zeal, he sternly reprov'd the impiety and lawlessness of Ahab and his wife Jezebel. He shut up heaven by means of prayer, and it did not rain for three years and six months. Ravens brought him food for his need when, at God’s command, he was hiding by the torrent of Horrath. He multiplied the little flour and oil of the poor widow of Sarephtha of Sidon, who had given him hospitality in her home, and when her son died, he raised him up. He brought down fire from heaven upon Mount Carmel, and it burned up the sacrifice offered to God before all the people of Israel, that they might know the truth. At the torrent of Kisson, he slew 450 false prophets and priests who worshipped idols and led the people astray. He received food wondrously at the hands of an Angel, and being strengthened by his food he walked for forty days and forty nights. He beheld God on Mount Horeb, as far as this is possible for human nature. He foretold the destruction of the house of Ahab, and the death of his son Ohozias; and as for the two captains of fifty that were sent by the king, he burned them for their punishment, bringing fire down from Heaven. He divided the flow of the Jordan, and he and his disciple Elisseus passed through as it were on dry land; and finally while speaking with him, Elias was suddenly snatched away by a fiery chariot in the year 895 B.C., and he ascended as though into heaven, whither God most certainly translated him alive, as He did Enoch (Gen. 5:24; IV Kings 2:11). But from then, after seven years, by means of an epistle he reproached Joram, the son of Josaphat, as it is written: “And there came a message in writing to him from Elias the Prophet saying, Thus saith the Lord God of David thy father, because you have not walked in the way,” and so forth (II Chronicles 21:12). According to the opinion of the majority of the interpreters, this came to pass either through his disciple Elisseus, or through another prophet when Elias appeared to them, even as he appeared on Mount Tabor to the disciples of Christ.

DORMITION OF SAINT ANNA, MOTHER OF THE THEOTOKOS—JULY 25

According to tradition, Anna, the ancestor of God, lived for sixty-nine years, and her spouse Joachim, for eighty; according to one account. Saint Joachim died two years before Saint Anna. The Theotokos had been orphaned of both her parents already when she was living in the Temple. Saint Anna is invoked for conceiving children, and for help in difficult childbirth.

PARASKEVE THE RIGHTEOUS-MARTYR OF ROME—JULY 26

Saint Paraskeve, who was from a certain village near Rome, was born to pious parents, Agatho and Politia. Since she was born on a Friday (in Greek, Paraskeve), she was given this name, which means “preparation” or “preparedness” (compare Matt. 27:62; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54; and John 19:31, where “Friday” is called “the day of the preparation”). From childhood she was instructed in the sacred letters and devoted herself to the study of the divine Scriptures, while leading a monastic life and guiding many to the Faith of Christ. During the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, she was apprehended because she was a Christian and was urged to worship the idols, but she answered with the words of Jeremiah: “Let the gods that have not made heaven and the earth perish from off the earth” (Jer. 10:11). Because of this she endured exceedingly painful torments, and was beheaded in the year 140. The faithful pray to her for the healing of eye ailments.

UPCOMING EVENTS at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

Saturday, July 6 6:00pm: Vespers

Sunday, July 7 9:25am: General Service of Confession/Reading of 3rd/6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Memorial: dep. Katherine Connors (40th day) by Stacey & Larry Connors

Saturday, July 13 6:00pm: Vespers

Sunday, July 14 9:30am: Reading of 3rd/6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Saturday, July 20 6:00pm: Vespers

Sunday, July 21 9:30am: Reading of 3rd/6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
BLESSING of VEHICLES after Liturgy
CHURCH PICNIC on our church grounds

Saturday, July 27 NO VESPERS

Sunday, July 28 9:30am: Reading of 3rd/6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
> Special collection for Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry <

