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# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## SAINTS PETER and PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

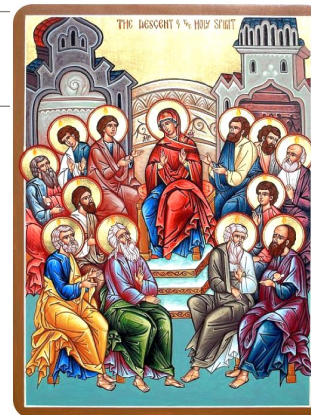
45 Ideal Street, Buffalo New York 14206

Mailing Address: 44 Benzinger Street, Buffalo New York 14206

Archpriest John P. Hutnyan

Cell Phone: 716.681.0302. Email: [humbleservant@live.com](mailto:humbleservant@live.com)

**JUNE 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 Orthodox Church—we look forward to seeing you again.

**THERE IS NO KNEELING** in the Orthodox Church or at home for our prayers until Pentecost. This standing position signifies that we too, will rise with Christ. Special kneeling prayers are taken on the Feast of Pentecost (50 days after Pascha) which is Sunday, June 23rd.

**THE WEEK FOLLOWING PENTECOST** is entitled a “fast free week,” which means that the Orthodox Church teaches us to eat meat products and not to fast, in order to teach us the great importance of Pentecost.

**AN INVITATION IS EXTENDED** to participate in a beautiful opera gala in the charming Taylor Theater on June 27th, at 6:30pm in Lockport, which our own parishioner, Arielle Plucinski, will be the lead soprano. Act 1 will feature select scenes from Leoncavallo’s “I Pagliacci”, and Act 2 will feature select arias, duets and instrument solos. The ticket link is as follows: <https://ticketscandy.com/e/i-pagliacci-and-more-4924>. Do not miss this elegant evening of beauty and music!

**ON SUNDAY, JUNE 23rd (PENTECOST)**, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, a special collection will be taken to help the DIOCESE OF ALASKA (OCA) financially. We ask that you give according to your means for this very worthwhile project. There are so many Orthodox in Alaska and they are so spread out in that state, but so few priests and funds to help them.

**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!

**A DONATION BUTTON** has been placed on our website ([peterandpauloca.org](http://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.

**BEST WISHES** are extended to Barbara See who is relocating to the Pittsburgh PA area after June 9th. We wish her well and God's blessings in this new chapter of her life.

**GOODBYE LUNCHEON FOR TRUETT FAMILY** — With sadness, we announce the departure of Reader John, Donna and Andreas Truett from our parish and the Buffalo area. John is retiring from the U.S. Navy and they are relocating back to North Carolina. As a reader of our church we will have a "Goodbye Luncheon" honoring them on Sunday, June 16th after Liturgy. Please join us as we wish them well in retirement.

**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.

**MANY THANKS TO:**

- [Nadia Ryan](#) for her donation of a new edger/trimmer for lawn work on the church grounds.
- [Tina Siniscalco](#) for her donation for the new replacement votive glasses for our hanging lampadas on the Icon Screen.

**CHILDREN LEARN SO MUCH FROM WHAT THEY SEE AND HEAR:** Please silence all cell phones when entering the church. 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.

**IF ANYONE WISHES TO DONATE TOWARDS** the DDB (Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor) Campaign for our NY/NJ Diocese, contact Father John. *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 representing their parish in this extremely important Diocesan campaign. Please see Father John if interested.

**COFFEE HOUR POLICY**

- 1st Sunday of each month — BAGELS & DESSERTS
- 2nd Sunday of each month — BAGELS & DESSERTS
- 3rd Sunday of each month — **LUNCHEON MEAL**
- 4th Sunday of each month — BAGELS & DESSERTS

There are exceptions to this rule for birthday celebrations and memorial luncheons if the family wishes to provide a luncheon meal. If you plan on bringing some food items to share at our coffee hour on Sundays, please sign up in the Parish Hall so we know what to provide if items are not being donated.

**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 censing 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 her church. All proceeds go to the church.

**ORTHODOXY 101 STUDY:** Will start up again in the fall.

**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.

**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 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](http://saintandrewscamp.org). This camp is part of the NY/NJ Deaneries and is located on 1280 State Route 49, Cleveland, NY 13042.

**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. THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT 20 BRICKS LEFT TO BE BOUGHT. 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.

**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!

### ***5TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: THE SAMARITAN WOMAN***

The fifth Sunday of Pascha deals with the woman of Samaria with whom Christ spoke at Jacob's Well from the Gospel of St. John (4). Again the theme is the "living water" and the recognition of Jesus as God's Messiah (John 4:10-11; 25-26). This is a reminder of a new life in Christ, of drinking of the "living water" of true worship of God in the Christian messianic age "in Spirit and in Truth" (John 4: 23-24). Salvation is offered to all: Jews and Gentiles, men and women, saints and sinners.

### ***6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: THE BLIND MAN***

The sixth Sunday commemorates the healing of the man blind from birth. The Gospel of St. John (9) tells how Jesus used clay of spittle and told the man to wash in the water of Siloam. He did so because it was the Sabbath day on which spitting, claymaking and washing were strictly forbidden. By breaking these ritual laws of the Jews, Jesus showed that He is indeed the Lord of the Sabbath, and, as such, that He is equal to God the Father Who alone, according to Jewish tradition, works on the Sabbath day in running His world.

### ***LEAVETAKING OF PASCHA***

Pascha has its Leavetaking on the thirty-ninth day, Wednesday of the sixth week of Pascha. In some traditions, the services of the day are celebrated as on the day of Pascha itself, although the daily readings from Holy Scripture differ. After the Dismissal at the Liturgy, the paschal hymns are no longer sung, while the prayer "O Heavenly King" is not said or sung until Pentecost. The Winding Sheet is taken from the altar and is put in its proper place.

### ***ASCENSION OF OUR LORD***

On the fortieth day after His Passover, Jesus ascended into heaven to be glorified on the right hand of God. The Ascension of Christ is His final physical departure from this world after the Resurrection. It is the formal completion of His mission in this world as the Messianic Savior. It is His glorious return to the Father who had sent Him into the world to accomplish the work that He had given Him to do (John 17: 4-5).

### ***HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL***

This Ecumenical Council was held in Nicea, Asia Minor in 326, under Emperor Constantine the Great. Three hundred eighteen bishops were present. The Arian controversy was discussed which dealt with Arius denied the divinity of Christ. If Jesus was born, then there was a time when He did not exist. If He became God, then there was time when He was not. The Council declared Arius' teaching a heresy, unacceptable to the Church and decreed that Christ is God. He is of the same essence "homoousios: with God the Father." The first part of the seven articles of the Creed were ratified at the First Ecumenical Council. In the Orthodox Church, there were a total of seven Ecumenical Councils called.

### ***THE FEAST OF HOLY PENTECOST***

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the great and holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The feast is always celebrated on a Sunday. The feast commemorates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity and is found in the Acts of the Apostles.

### ***ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY***

The first Sunday after Pentecost is known as All Saints' Sunday, and celebrates the memory of all the saints of every description: the righteous prophets, martyrs, confessors, bishops, teachers, ascetics, and all men and women who have glorified God through holy living and dying, especially those who are not especially commemorated on some specific day in the Orthodox Church year. The all-holy Theotokos and the Hosts and Angels are also honored on this day. On the Monday after All Saints' Sunday, the fasting period of Sts. Peter and Paul begins and lasts until June 29, the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.

### **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY...**

Father's Day is celebrated the third Sunday in June. The idea for creating a day for children to honor their fathers began in Spokane, Washington. A woman by the name of Sonora Smart Dodd thought of the idea for Father's Day while listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Having been raised by her father, Henry Jackson Smart, after her mother died, Sonora wanted her father to know how special he was to her. It was her father that made all the parental sacrifices and was, in the eyes of his daughter, a courageous, selfless, and loving man. Sonora's father was born in June, so she chose to hold the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington on the 19th of June, 1910. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Roses are the Father's Day flowers: red to be worn for a living father and white if the father has died.

### **MY HERO—MY FATHER**

As I ponder the love that I saw in his eyes, a Godly love, given without compromise.  
I recall many times that he stood by my side, and prodded me on with great vigor and pride.  
His voice ever confident, firm and yet fair, always speaking with patience, tenderness and care.  
The power and might of his hands was so sure, I knew there was nothing we couldn't endure.  
It's true, a few others provided insight, yet, he laid the foundation that kept me upright. —*Author Unknown*

## ON THE HOLY SPIRIT...

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, the gift of adoption, the pledge of future inheritance, the first fruits of eternal blessings, the life-giving power, the source of sanctification. —*St. Basil the Great (Holy Liturgy: Prayer)*

Spirit of God, direct, authoritative, the fountain of wisdom and life and holiness; God existing and addressed along with the Father and the Son: uncreated, full, creative, all-ruling, all-effecting, all-powerful, of infinite power, Lord of all creation and not subject to any lord; deifying, not deified; filling, not filled; shared in not sharing in; sanctifying, not sanctified. —*St. John of Damascus (Orthodox Faith)*

One does not think of the Father without the Son; one does not conceive of the Son without the Holy Spirit. For it is impossible to attain to the Father except by being raised by the Son, and it is impossible to call Jesus “Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. —*St. Gregory of Nyssa (Against the Macedonians)*

Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become God’s for His sake, since He for ours became Man. He assumed the worse that He might give us the better; He became poor that we through His poverty might be rich; He took upon Him the form of a servant that we might receive back our liberty; He came down that we might be exalted; He was tempted that we might conquer; He was dishonored that He might glorify us; He died that He might save us; He ascended that He might draw to Himself us, who were lying low in the Fall of sin. Let us give all, offer all, to Him Who gave Himself a Ransom and a Reconciliation for us. But one can give nothing like oneself, understanding the Mystery, and becoming for His sake all that He became for ours...

—*St. Gregory the Theologian (From the First Paschal Oration)*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

**Saturday, June 1** 6:00pm: Vespers

Greek Festival @ Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Buffalo

**Sunday, June 2** **Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**

9:25am: General Service of Confession/Reading of 3rd/6th Hours after

10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Memorial: dep. Oleg Voronin, Thomas Hajduk, Marcella Grzedzicki by  
Voronin, Bender, Rodriguez families

Greek Festival @ Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Buffalo

**Saturday, June 8** 6:00pm: Vespers

**Sunday, June 9** **Sunday of the Man Born Blind**

9:30am: Reading of 3rd/6th Hours

10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Thursday, June 13** **Ascension of our Lord** (NO Divine Liturgy)

**Friday-Sat., June 14-15** St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Festival, Jamestown, NY (ALL are welcome)

**Saturday, June 15** 2024 Diocesan Altar Servers Retreat—Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church,  
Endicott, NY

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Festival, Jamestown, NY (continued)

NO VESPERS

**Sunday, June 16** **Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council / Father's Day**

9:30am: Reading of 3rd/6th Hours

10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Memorial: all departed great grandfathers/grandfathers/fathers/  
stepfathers/godfathers

Goodbye Luncheon for Truett Family in parish hall

**Saturday, June 22** 6:00pm: Vespers / Memorial: All Souls

**Sunday, June 23** **Pentecost Sunday**

9:30am: Reading of 3rd/6th Hours

10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom with Kneeling Prayers

> Extra collection for Diocese of Alaska <

**Monday, June 24** **Nativity of St. John the Baptist / Day of the Holy Spirit** (NO Divine Liturgy)

**Saturday, June 29** **Feast of Saints Peter and Paul** (NO Divine Liturgy—commemorated Sunday)

6:00pm: Vespers

**Sunday, June 30** **All Saints Sunday**

9:30am: Reading of 3rd/6th Hours

10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Parish Council Meeting