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# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## SAINTS PETER and PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

45 Ideal Street, Buffalo New York 14206

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MAY 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.

**DURING THIS UPCOMING WEEK, NAMELY TITLED “BRIGHT WEEK”** our Orthodox Church instructs us that there is “no fasting” this coming Wednesday and Friday, due to the great “Feast of Feasts,” the Resurrection of our Lord! Enjoy!

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

- David DeVantier and Samantha Epps on the baptism of their daughter, June Hiver Basilia DeVantier on Sunday, April 2nd. Godparents are Devyn DeVantier and Justin Epps. Her Orthodox sponsor is Christine Metz.
- Gavin Faulkner, who received the Sacrament of Chrismation into the Orthodox Faith on Palm Sunday. His Orthodox sponsor is Reader John Truett.

**WE NEED TO PURCHASE** extra red votive glasses for our hanging lampadas on the Icon Screen because some have broken. The cost is \$150. If you are interested, please see Father John.

**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.

**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. We will have a “Goodbye Luncheon” honoring them on Sunday, June 16th after Liturgy. Please join us as we wish them well in retirement.

**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 25 BRICKS LEFT TO BE BOUGHT. Order forms are available in the church vestibule or the Parish Hall. Any questions, 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!

**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.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** this year:

- St. Matthew's Cemetery on Clinton Street — Sunday, May 12th at 2pm (Rain Date: Sunday, May 19th)
- Riverdale Cemetery in Lewiston — Saturday, May 18th at 11am

Please inform Father John if you will attend either day.

**WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE** to those who have remembered us this Paschal Season with cards and gifts. May our Risen Lord bless all of you for your display of kindness towards us. Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! — *Father John, Matushka Nancy, Sarah & Brett, Jillian & Joe*

**THANK YOU TO:**

- Ed and David Niemann for donating to our parish, a brand new self-propelled lawnmower to do our church grounds
- Nadia Ryan, Christine Metz, and Tim Harper for the beautiful landscaping clean-up, and John Truett and Tim Harper for the “rush” lawn cutting and outside work to make everything beautiful for Holy Week and Pascha.
- Nadia Ryan for her talents in decorating our church for Palm Sunday and her beautiful flower arrangement around Christ's Resurrection icon for Pascha.

**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.

**AS YOU KNOW, OUR PARISH HALL LOWER ROOF** is going to need replacing in the near future. 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.

**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.

**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.

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD** is a Montessori based Christian Education program that encourages a fuller participation in the Liturgy by providing a prepared environment that is specifically designed for children to know God in a deep way. This will be taught at Saint Tikhon’s Seminary, June 3-7, 2024. Please contact: Olga Ptach (Diocese of NY-NJ Coordinator for CGS). Email: [olgaptach@gmail.com](mailto:olgaptach@gmail.com). Text or call 914.262.1061. All NY-NJ Diocesan attendees can be sponsored (tuition, room and board which will be \$400) by the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors fund which has a limited capacity. However, each attendee must pay a ONE TIME fee of \$35 for national CGS certification. Please register by May 15 to insure your seat.

**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.

**COFFEE HOUR – NEW POLICY**

1st Sunday of each month – BAGELS/ENGLISH MUFFINS & DESSERTS

2nd Sunday of each month – BAGELS/ENGLISH MUFFINS & DESSERTS

3rd Sunday of each month – **LUNCHEON MEAL**

4th Sunday of each month – BAGELS/ENGLISH MUFFINS & DESSERTS

If you plan on bringing some food items to share at our coffee hour on Sundays, sign up in the Parish Hall.

**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 censuring 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.

**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? NEW EMAIL ADDRESS?** Please let Father John know your new contact information.

*PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST*

The Paschal Troparion (“Christ is risen from the dead...”) is sung at each of the daily services until Ascension Thursday. At each of the Sunday services the Paschal canon and hymns are repeated. The epistle readings are taken from the Acts of the Apostles, telling of the first Christians who lived in communion with the Risen Lord, and all of the gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of John. Every day during the week after Pascha, called Bright Week, the paschal services are celebrated in all their splendor. The procession is repeated daily. The doors of the sanctuary remain open. A day without end!

*SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SAINT THOMAS*

The Sunday after Pascha (Easter) is called the Second Sunday. It is the eighth day of the Paschal celebration and the last day of Bright Week. It is called the Antipascha. The Sunday is celebrated in remembrance of the appearance of Christ to the Apostle Thomas “after eight days.” The Church reminds the faithful who have not seen Christ with their physical eyes nor touched His Risen Body with their physical hands, yet in the Holy Spirit have seen and touched and tasted the Word of Life, and so they believe.

*THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA: THE HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN*

The third Sunday of Pascha is dedicated to the Myrrhbearing Women who cared for the body of Christ at His death and who were the first witnesses of His Resurrection. They found the tomb empty and wondered what this meant, angels appeared proclaiming that Christ had risen from the dead.

*FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: THE PARALYTIC*

The fourth Sunday is dedicated to Christ’s healing of the paralytic, from the Gospel of St. John. The man is healed by Christ while waiting to be put down into the pool of water. The Church reminds the faithful that through baptism in the church we, too, are healed and saved by Christ for eternal life. Thus, in the church, we are told, together with the paralytic, to sin no more that nothing worse before you” (John 5:14).

*WEDNESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK AFTER PASCHA: MID-FEAST OF PENTECOST*

Wednesday of the Fourth Week, thus the 25th day of Pascha, is called the feast of Mid-Pentecost, at which Christ, “in the middle of the feast” teaches men of His saving mission and offers to all “the waters of immortality”, from the Gospel of St. John (7:14). Again the faithful are reminded of the Master’s presence and His saving promise: “If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink” (John 7:37).

**WISDOM FROM THE FATHERS...**

The root of all good works is the hope of the Resurrection; for the expectation of the recompense prompts the soul to good works. For every laborer is ready to endure the toils, if they see their reward in prospect; but when men weary themselves for naught, their hearts soon sink, as well as their bodies. — *St. Cyril of Jerusalem*

The women, with mingled joy and fear, joy and sorrow, turned away from the tomb, as Scripture teaches, to meet the apostles; and they said, “Why are you disheartened? Why do you hide your faces? Lift up your hearts! Christ is risen! Form choruses and say along with us, ‘The Lord is risen!’ He has shone forth, He who was created before the dawn. Do not be downcast, but take courage! Spring has appeared; come to bloom, you branches, producing fruit and not misery. He offers resurrection to the fallen.” — *St. Romanos the Melodist*

The Apostles call themselves “witnesses of the resurrection” of Christ, though their ministry was to bear witness not of His resurrection alone, but also of His whole doctrine, so important do they deem the truth of the resurrection to be. And indeed, as soon as this truth is confirmed, so soon is also confirmed thereby the truth of all that which our Lord did and taught. But inasmuch as the truth of Christ’s resurrection is important to faith, the truth of our resurrection is important to our life. When this truth is confirmed, all the rules of a holy and godly life become firmly established in us. — *St. Philaret of Moscow*

**MEMORIAL DAY MEANING — THE HISTORY**

Each May, the United States celebrates a day called Memorial Day. Does Memorial Day have meaning? What is the history of Memorial Day? Memorial Day was first widely observed in May 1868. The celebration commemorated the sacrifices of the Civil War and the proclamation was made by General John A. Logan, Following the proclamation, participants decorated graves of more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers. In years since World War 1, the day has become a celebration of honor for those who died in all America’s wars, as well as those who are Veterans and current members of the U.S. military. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday. The United States celebrates this holiday the last Monday of May.

## MOTHERS DAY

A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did like pie.

Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs...since the payment is pure love.

A man's work is from sun to sun, but a mother's work is never done.

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to some. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness." — *Proverbs 31:25-28*

"Only God himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children. — *Billy Graham*

"Children are not a distraction from more important work. They ARE the most important work." — *C.S. Lewis*

"When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice—once for herself and once for her child." — *Sophia Loren*

Life doesn't come with a manual, it comes with a mother.

"No man is poor who has a Godly mother." — *Abraham Lincoln*

A mother's hug lasts long after she lets go.

Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. — *Proverbs 31:31*

Mothers plant the seeds of love that bloom forever.

*Happy Mother's Day!!*

## UPCOMING EVENTS at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Mon.-Fri. May 6-10 Bright Week: eating of meat products is allowed and encouraged—Christ is Risen!  
 Saturday May 11 6pm: VESPERS
- Sunday May 12 **Saint Thomas Sunday / Mothers Day**  
9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours  
10am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom  
 Memorial: departed mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, godmothers  
2pm: Blessing of Graves, St. Matthew's Cemetery (Clinton St.)
- Saturday May 18 11am: Blessing of Graves, Riverdale Cemetery, Lewiston NY  
 NO VESPERS
- Sunday May 19 **Sunday of Myrrbearing Women**  
 9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours  
 10am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom  
 Parish Council Meeting  
 [RAIN DATE IF NEEDED—2pm: Blessing of Graves, St. Matthew's Cemetery]
- Saturday May 25 6pm: VESPERS
- Sunday May 26 **Sunday of the Paralytic / Memorial Day Weekend**  
 9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours  
 10am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom  
 Memorial: all departed veterans
- Saturday June 1 NO VESPERS
- Fri.-Sun. May 31-June 2 Greek Festival @Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Buffalo NY