
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAINTS PETER and PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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NOVEMBER 2024



St. John Chrysostom

SERVICE SCHEDULE *(but always check our calendar of events)*

- VESPERS — 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.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS — remember to **TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE (1) HOUR** before bedtime on Saturday, November 2nd.

WE HAVE AN AMERICAN FLAG donated to our parish and we are seeking a donor/donors to help purchase the flag pole and base. Please see Father John if interested. We are the Orthodox Church in America, and it would be appropriate to have an American flag in our church.

CONGRATULATIONS to TAHANIE ANNE AHMED, who was baptized/chrisdated into the Orthodox Church recently. Her sponsor is Marty Napierski. May her spiritual journey to Christ be one of bearing fruit for our Lord and the Orthodox Church. We welcome her to Saints Peter and Paul Church and may God grant her many years!

SYMPATHY IS EXPRESSED to Gavin Faulkner and his family in the falling asleep of his uncle, Steven Connell. May his memory be eternal in God's heavenly mansions.

THE NATIVITY FAST begins on Friday, Nov. 15th through and including Dec. 24th. Please check the church calendar for fasting regulations. This fasting season was set-up by the early Church in order to prepare our souls for the Nativity of the Infant Messiah. Special services held in our church on Wednesdays in this fasting season, are a time to prepare our soul for this blessed event.

NATIVITY PLAY — Sunday, December 8th

Our children will be putting on a Christmas-themed play on December 8th right following lunch—first time in many years! We hope everyone will stay for coffee hour and the play to show appreciation to our children for their hard work and to see their excitement in presenting the play.

HIS BEATITUDE METROPOLITAN TIKHON announced that Sunday, November 17th will be **Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America Sunday**. The financial support received by the Stewards of the OCA goes directly to fund the OCA's Departments, offices, boards, and other ministries. Every donation matters and this support funds many of the resources and tools we rely on in parish life free of charge, such as: downloadable liturgical texts and sheet music made available weekly, new curriculum units for your Church School programs, and the ongoing "Thriving in Ministry" program from the Office of Pastoral Life. This special collection will take place when you come forward to kiss the Cross. Please be considerate in your offering.

FOR SALE in our Parish Hall:

Bracelets, necklaces, bookmarkers — made by our parishioner, Aubriella Rodriguez

Scarves, dish towels, scrub pads — made by Heidi Bender's mother, Mrs. Irene Veronin

We thank Aubriella and Mrs. Veronin for their talents and generosity in helping our church. All proceeds go to our church for building repairs.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING—Sunday, November 24th in parish hall

INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH: Remind your relatives of the importance of attending services faithfully. Invite a neighbor or friend! It is always nice to bring someone along with you to Liturgy to see what our beautiful Orthodox Faith is about.

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.

A DONATION BUTTON is on our church website peterandpauloca.org. Your donation can be made electronically via our website using either PayPal or a credit card/bank card.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING—Enjoy the American holiday of THANKSGIVING...spend time with your families and be sure to say your prayers being grateful to God for all His blessings.

THE ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL AND ALL THE BODILESS POWERS — NOVEMBER 8

Michael is the warrior Archangel, the Prince of the Heavenly Host which guards the Church of God. He was known to the Jews of old, and recognized by them as a special guardian. His picture appears in our Church on the right hand door of the Icon Screen, as we face the Altar, He is shown slaying a dragon, the symbol of the devil or a serpent, another form of the Prince of Darkness.

Gabriel is the Archangel of the Annunciation. It was he who came to Mary, to tell her of the Birth of the Infant Jesus (St. Luke 1:26-38). Zachariah heard from Gabriel the announcement of the birth of his son, John, who was to become famous as St. John the Baptist (St. Luke 1:5-20).

Raphael is "One of the Seven who stand before the Lord." His ministry is that of healing, but like all the angels, he is also a messenger of God. Throughout the Bible we find the angels appearing in one way or another, and transmitting the will of God.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM — NOVEMBER 13

St. John Chrysostom is the most famous preacher of the Eastern Church. He was a Syrian, born in Antioch in 340 AD. In 397, after a career as a monk and secretary of St. Meletios, Patriarch of Antioch, John was elevated to the Patriarchal throne of Constantinople. There his oratorical fame won him the devotion of the people, while his attempts to reform the dissolute nobility of the court gained him many enemies, chief of whom is the Empress Eudoxia. This royal dislike finally brought about his banishment in 403 and he died in exile in 407.

St. John received the name “Chrysostom”, which means “Golden-mouthed” because of his marvelous gift of oratory. His famous Easter sermon is still read in every Orthodox Church on Easter Sunday. His influence on the life of the Church was tremendous; he revised the order of the Divine Liturgy into the form which is still used at this present day. On every Sunday of the year except the Sundays of Lent, the Divine liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is sung.

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE — NOVEMBER 14

St. Philip is one of the Twelve Disciples. He was married and his daughters also worked for the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus. After the Ascension, Philip went into Phrygia in Asia Minor. He preached to the people of Hierapolis, who were worshipping a huge serpent, whose death Philip brought about through prayer. The enraged people put him to death about 80 AD after imprisoning and torturing him to make him give up his faith.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS — NOVEMBER 21

Several of the early Christian writings of Syria tell us that the Virgin Mary, at the age of three, was brought by her parents to the temple to be educated there in fulfillment of a vow they made. This feast in honor of the beginning of pious education had its origin in the East, very probably in Syria, where the writings which tell of it originated. It is one of the four great Feasts celebrated in her honor by the Church.

ST. CATHERINE OF SINAI — NOVEMBER 24

St. Catherine was a rich and noble girl of Alexandria in Egypt, who refused to marry the tyrant Maximus Daza, and who was sent into exile because of this and the fact that she was a Christian, and would not marry a pagan. When she returned from exile and still remained unmoved, she was tortured by being tied to a huge wheel studded with spikes, which was then revolved. She died in 310 AD and her body was later removed to Mount Sinai, where it still remains. Catherine was well educated, and won fame (and the dislike of the pagans) by holding public discussions with the champions of paganism, whom she defeated. This fact undoubtedly had much to do with her subsequent martyrdom; the pagans accounted her stubborn, and the Christians gloried in her steadfastness in the Faith.

ST. ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED APOSTLE — NOVEMBER 30

St. Andrew was a disciple of St. John the Baptist, and was the first of the 12 disciples called by Christ. He was the elder brother of St. Peter, and a native of Bethsaida in Galilee. After the Ascension he preached in Greece and the Balkans, and in southern Russian. He was crucified on an X-shaped cross about 60 AD in Patras, Greece, during the persecution that took place in the reign of the Emperor Nero.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

- Saturday, November 2** 10:00am: WORK DAY—replacing parish hall lights with new LEDS
NO VESPERS
Turn clocks **BACK** one (1) hour before bedtime (*Daylight Saving Time Ends*)
- Sunday, November 3** 9:25am: GENERAL SERVICE OF CONFESSION/Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
PARISH YEARLY MEETING in parish hall
- Friday, November 8** *Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and All the Bodiless Powers*
- Saturday, November 9** 6:00pm: VESPERS
- Sunday, November 10** 9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
- Wed., November 13** *Feast of St. John Chrysostom*
- Thursday, November 14** *Feast of St. Philip the Apostle*
- Friday, November 15** 6:00pm: SMALL COMPLINE SERVICE (*Nativity Fast Begins*)
- Saturday, November 16** 5:00pm: COMBINED ORTHODOX VESPERS at
St. George Church, Lewiston NY
- Sunday, November 17** 9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
- Wed., November 20** 6:00pm: SMALL COMPLINE SERVICE for Nativity Fast
- Thursday, November 21** *Presentation of Theotokos into Temple*
- Saturday, November 23** 6:00pm: VESPERS
- Sunday, November 24** *St. Catherine of Sinai*
9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
- Wed., November 27** 6:00pm: SMALL COMPLINE SERVICE for Nativity Fast
- Thursday, November 28** *Happy Thanksgiving!*

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS (continued)

Friday, November 29 Christmas decorating at church (time to be announced)

Saturday, November 30 Christmas decorating at church (time to be announced)
NO VESPERS

Sunday, December 1 9:25am: GENERAL SERVICE OF CONFESSION/Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
40 Day Memorial—departed uncle, Steven Connell by Gavin Faulkner

Wednesday, December 4 6:00pm: SMALL COMPLINE SERVICE for Nativity Fast

Friday, December 6 *Feast of St. Nicholas (celebrated Sunday, December 8th)*

Saturday, December 7 6:00pm: VESPERS

Sunday, December 8 *Honoring St. Nicholas the Wonderworker*
9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom
ST. NICHOLAS visits the children in the church
NATIVITY PLAY by our children, after coffee hour in parish hall

MOST SINCERE HEARTFELT THANKS TO EVERYONE who made the Archbishop's visit so spiritual and wonderful. We had great attendance at both services. We are very appreciative for...

- Those who donated financially towards the catering. SO MANY gave to our request, the meals were totally covered by your generosity and the church paid nothing for the meals.
- Those who donated desserts for both days. I don't think I have ever seen so many delicious desserts for one weekend!
- Those who cleaned and set up for the weekend, and those who helped in the major task of clean-up afterwards.
- Those who attended the services and fellowship afterwards, showing the Archbishop how important his visits are.
- The CHOIR who sang beautifully for the services. I don't think many realize how difficult it is for a choir to sing without a choir director standing in front of them, giving pitches and guiding them through the services. The Archbishop cannot believe how well we sing, especially with so few people. I am very proud of you and thankful for you every Sunday!
- Our SUBDEACON GREGORY, our READER TIM (PAISIOS) and the ALTAR SERVERS—you have stepped up helping me more than ever (especially during my surgery recovery). I am proud of you and so very thankful for all of you.

So happy and excited to be your priest,

Father John