
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: humbleservant@live.com

SEPTEMBER 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.

ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL'S VISIT to our parish: Saturday & Sunday, October 12 & 13, 2024

Saturday, October 12 — Vespers at 6:00pm

Sunday, October 13 — Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

NEEDED: Monetary donations for catered meals; desserts (Please see Father John or Matushka Nancy.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, PLAN ON ATTENDING!!

SINCERE THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF OUR PARISH TO:

- DAVID DEVANTIER, JOHN TIPTON, ANTONIO JEAN and CAMERON RAY for helping to apply the “rubberized aluminum” on the lower roof of our parish hall.
- VIC and KAREN GADZIK for installing new LED ceiling lights in our hall kitchen and coat room, and also for donating the cost for 15 new LED ceiling lights for our parish hall.
- Those who donated towards the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. A sum of \$207 was sent from our church to help with this worthwhile ministry.

FATHER JOHN'S UPCOMING SURGERY will take place on Monday, September 16th. He is having a total knee replacement of the left knee. Father Peter Irfan will be serving a few Sunday Liturgies while Father John is recovering at home. Please be sure to welcome Father Peter while he serves Saints Peter and Paul Church.

If there is an emergency or need for an Orthodox priest during Father John's recovery, please still call Father John at 716.681.0302 and he will make arrangements for you.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY BLESSED YEARS TO:

- MARTIN and SHARON NAPIERSKI who embraced the Orthodox Sacrament of Marriage in our church on August 24, 2024.
- STEVEN and MADELINE MOSKALUK who embraced the Orthodox Sacrament of Marriage in our church on August 31, 2024.

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.

ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th we will have a special collection at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, for one of our sister parishes, Saint Olympia Orthodox Church in Norwood, New York. This parish’s edifice was devastated by Hurricane Debby. We ask that you please be generous in your offering.

PICK A BRICK – Bricks are still available for our “Brick Prayer Garden.” Wedding dates, in memory of someone dear to your heart, current parishioners’ names—be a part of our church history and support our church with this fundraiser. Cost is \$100/brick. We would like to get all brick orders in ASAP in order to place them in the ground before October. Any questions, see Nadia Ryan or Father John.

BRACELETS/NECKLACES/BOOK MARKERS: Have you checked out these beautifully designed items in our parish hall? They are made by our own Aubriella Rodriguez and we thank her for her love for her church. All proceeds go to the church.

INVITE A FRIEND to church. Encourage your relatives to attend services faithfully. It is always nice to bring a friend 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.

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED THEOTOKOS – SEPTEMBER 8

Tradition is the source for details surrounding the birth of the Theotokos. While the birth of our Lord and St. John the Baptist are recorded in Sacred Scripture, the birth of the Theotokos has come to us only from non-Scriptural sources. The icon of the feast is based upon these sources.

The icon of her nativity shows St. Anne reclining on a bed with an attendant at her side. The Theotokos is generally represented in swaddling clothes, and in the arms of a midwife who is seated on a stool. St. Joachim is present speaking with his wife. The midwife is reduced in size to focus attention on the holy parents and infant. In icons, the importance of a person is indicated by size. Size is not a physical feature of a person, but a qualitative element relating to importance. St. Anne gazes downward upon her new-born daughter. The servant in the middle stands ready to assist the mother.

The Liturgy rejoices in the nativity of the Theotokos with hymns and chants of deeply spiritual and poetic character. The chant sung at Vespers of this feast summarizes the Church's thinking about this event. "Indeed, some famous barren women have given birth by the will of God. But the birth of Mary surpasses all births in honor and splendor, as in worthy of the majesty of God. She was born of a barren mother in a miraculous way. Mary herself gave birth in the flesh to the God of All, incarnate in her womb without human seed, against the laws of nature..." The Liturgy and icon call us to praise and worship God in His wondrous presence in our lives. Two important branches of Israel were united in the nativity of the Theotokos: the royal house of David and the sacerdotal or consecrated house of Aaron.

ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS — SEPTEMBER 14

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross originated in Jerusalem in 355 to commemorate the dedication of the Basilica of the Resurrection. When the True Cross of Jesus was found shortly afterwards, this even was commemorated on the same day. In time, the feast of the Exaltation supplanted the feast of the dedication.

In 395, St. John Chrysostom wrote of three crosses which were discovered beneath Golgatha by the Empress Helena. Many other writers speak of miracles which occurred through contact with the True Cross. It was through one of these miracles that the True Cross was recognized by St. Helena and St. Macarius, the Bishop of Jerusalem.

The Holy Cross was kept in the Basilica of the Resurrection in Jerusalem until 614, when the Persians conquered the city and burned the church. In 628, Emperor Heraclius III defeated the Persians and returned the Holy Cross to Jerusalem. A portion of the Cross was taken to Rome in the seventh century by Sergius I, a Pope of Byzantine origin.

Icons of the feast usually portray St. Macarius in the center of the icon, elevating the Holy Cross and showing it to the people. This elevation or uplifting of the Cross shows its prominence as the sign of victory. Hence the name "Exaltation" or "Elevation of the Holy Cross." St. Constantine the Emperor, and St. Helena, his mother, are frequently shown, although some icons depict only St. Helena. Gathered about the Cross with St. Macarius and St. Helena are bishops, priests, and hymnographers. With them, too, we are joined in oneness of mind and purpose as we sing: "Your Cross we adore O Lord, and we praise Your holy Resurrection."

CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS...

Many people want to serve God, but only as advisors.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember...Moses started out as a basket case.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Peace starts with a smile.

If the church wants a better priest, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find that God lives there.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

MORE CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS...

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.
Don't give God instructions...just report for duty!
He who angers you, controls you! God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
We don't change the message, the message changes us.
The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.
It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.
The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

WORDS OF WISDOM of an ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN...

You are more comfortable standing in church than sitting.
You're used to skipping breakfast on Sundays.
You wonder why the Pope crosses himself backwards.
You wear comfortable shoes to church because you know you'll be standing a long time.
You often get great deals on Easter candy.
You don't flinch when someone throws water at you.
You are experienced at removing wax from clothing.
You consider any service two hours or under, short.
You know you're in an Orthodox Church when the priest says, "Let us complete our prayer to the Lord"... and there's still half an hour to go.
Your Easter isn't Easter without an all-night party after Holy Saturday night services.
Your priest is married.
You can differentiate between the eight different chanting tones.
You address the City as Constantinople instead of Istanbul.
You can say "Lord, have mercy" 40 times without making a mistake.
You can say "Christ is Risen"/"Indeed He is Risen" in at least 3 languages.
You've grown accustomed to the taste of wine because you've had it since you were a baby.
You wonder why others complain about having to "fast for 6 hours before a blood test." (6 hours...piece of cake!)...try 40 days!
BUT MOST OF ALL...YOU'RE IN AWE EVERY TIME YOU WALK INTO AN ORTHODOX CHURCH, NO MATTER WHERE IN THE WORLD IT IS...AND YOU THANK GOD THAT YOU ARE AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN!

UPCOMING EVENTS at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

- Sunday, September 1** *10th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:25am: General Service of Confession/Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- Saturday, September 7** 6:00pm: Vespers
- Sunday, September 8** *11th Sunday after Pentecost / Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos*
9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
- Saturday, September 14** *Elevation of the Holy Cross (commemorated tomorrow)*
6:00pm Vespers
- Sunday, September 15** *12th Sunday after Pentecost / Commemoration of Elevation of the Holy Cross*
9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
40-day Memorial Service—Clyde Harper, by son, Tim Harper & Kathleen Dorman
- Saturday, September 21** NO VESPERS
- Sunday, September 22** *13th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom — served by Fr. Peter Irfan
- Saturday, September 28** NO VESPERS
- Sunday, September 29** *14th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:30am: Reading of 3rd & 6th Hours
10:00am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom — served by Fr. Peter Irfan
- Tuesday, October 1** Protection of the Blessed Theotokos
NO LITURGY
- Saturday, October 5** NO VESPERS