

God-forbid, someone becomes ill I would need to contact everyone who was in attendance.

*We also ask that EVERYONE continues to wear a mask while in Church and in the Parish Fellowship Hall. If we forget one, we will have them available at the Candle Desk as well as in the Parish Fellowship Hall. Also, when we enter the Church and say our prayers, please use the hand sanitizer that is located at the Candle Desk. There is also one located in the Parish Fellowship Hall. These precautions are for the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes and enters our Church to pray and worship God.

*We are taking every measure that we can to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our parishioners and of everyone that comes to our parish to pray. Together, with the Parish Council, we express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your help, assistance, patience, and understanding and for your continued working together and praying together as a Parish Family for The Glory of God, To the Glory of God, and With the Glory of God!

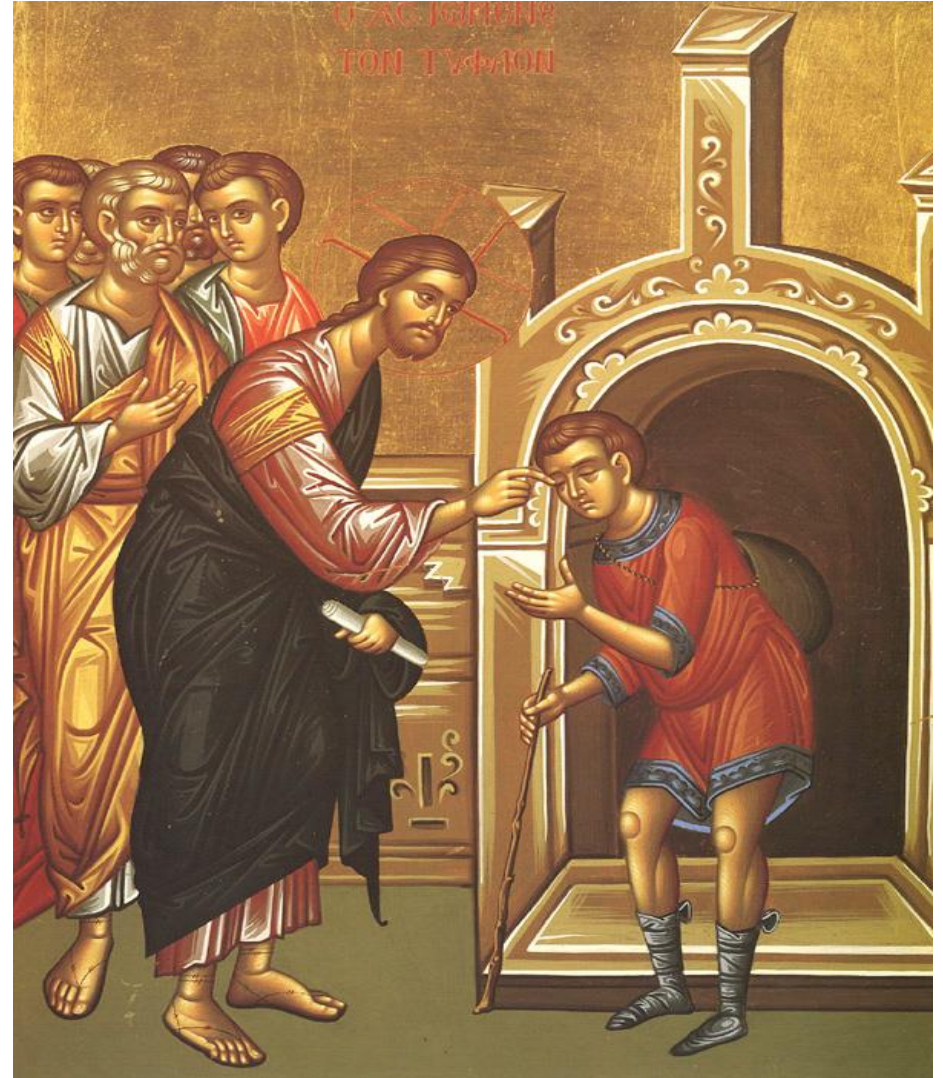
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Please look up the below weblink for the website of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey:

<https://www.nynjoca.org>

Please look up the below weblink for the newly-updated Diocesan Directives of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey for the Continued Re-Opening of our Parishes:

<file:///C:/Users/FR62D4~1.JAS/AppData/Local/Temp/Diocesan%20Guidelines%20Continuing%20Reopening%202021%2005%2026%20for%20distribution-3.pdf>



St. George Orthodox Church
2 Nottingham Terrace - Buffalo, NY 14216
(716) 875-4222
www.stgeorgebuffalo.com

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Published weekly in the interest of the parishioners and friends of Saint George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY a parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and The Orthodox Church in America

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

2 Nottingham Terrace Buffalo, NY 14216

V. Rev. Jason Vansuch, Parish Priest

2 Nottingham Terrace 716-875-4222 Buffalo, NY 14216

Cell Phone: 609-851-3811 Email: jvansuch@hotmail.com

Presbyter Andreja Damjanovski, Attached Rev. Peter Irfan, Attached
Reader John Kirwan, Choir Director
Mr. Paul Shosho, Parish Council President
Home: 716-544-7358 Email: pshosho@me.com

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — **Tone 5.** Blind Man. Ven. Bessarion, Wonderworker of Egypt (4th-5th c.). Ven. Hilarion the New, Abbot of the Dalmatian Monastery (845). St. Jonah, Bishop of Perm (1470). Ven. Paisii, Abbot of Uglich (1504). Ven. Jonah, Abbot of Klimetz (1534). Virgin Martyrs Archelais, Thekla, and Susanna, at Salerno (293).

EPISTLE: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom **GOSPEL:** John 9:1-38
Acts 16:16-34

CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!

AL MASEEH QAM!
HAQQAN QAM!
CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!

HRISTUS A INVIAT!

CRISTO HA RESUCITADO!
KRISHTI U NGJALL!
CRISTO E' RISORTO!

CHRISTOS TENSIOU!
BAHAKE TENSIOU!

CHRISTOS ANESTI!
ALITHOS ANESTI!
VOISTINU VOSKRESE!

ADEVERAT A INVIAT!

EN VERDAD, HA RESUCITADO!
VERTET U NGJALL!
VERAMENTE E' RISORTO!

WELCOME TO ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

We welcome all of you to the Divine Liturgy this morning, especially those who are visiting with us here at St. George Orthodox Church. Everyone is invited to the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy for Christian Fellowship. It is our prayer that your experience this morning was spiritually uplifting and you will return very soon to pray with our parish family. In the Orthodox Church, we do not practice open Communion. However we do invite everyone to come and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Hence only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer and fasting may receive Holy Communion. May the Lord bless you with many years of good health and happiness.

****IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION****

**We are celebrating The Divine Services with FULL CAPACITY in The Church. ALL Pews will be open and available for everyone to stand together. So that we can, to the Glory of God, pray together, sing together and stand together as parish family, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Until further notice, we continue to follow the following guidelines based upon The Diocesan Directives/Guidelines:

Based upon Updated Diocesan Guidelines we will continue as follows:

1. EVERYONE continues to wear a mask while in church.
2. The choir will continue to sing up front until such time we can move them back to the choir area
3. The space in the back of the church (choir area and children's area) will remain open for the 15 chairs socially distant for those who wish to stand there.
4. We will go back to using the Common Communion Cloth. However, if anyone wishes to use the individual napkin to wipe their lips after receiving Holy Communion, they may do so.
5. We will go back to venerating/kissing The Holy Icons, The Cross, and other Sacred Objects of Veneration while wearing our masks.
6. The Church, Parish Hall, and Restrooms will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week

With this in mind, we will still need to sign up when we come to Church for THE DIVINE LITURGY on Sundays! This is to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of everyone attending our Parish for the Divine Liturgy.

Please refer to the following signup link <https://signup.com/go/AqSQSmX>

If we reach FULL CAPACITY in The Church, then we will have overflow in The Parish Hall with live streaming of The Divine Liturgy. EVERYONE attending the Divine Liturgy (those in the Nave and those in The Parish Fellowship Hall – parishioners, choir members, parish council members) NEED to sign-up. Only Those in the Altar do not need to sign-up as they are not taking space in The Nave.

This sign-up is important for us and our parish not only to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to come to Church to pray, participate in The Divine Liturgy and to receive Holy Communion but also to ensure that Fr. Jason has a record of everyone who attends the Divine Liturgy in case,

HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

Troparion for Resurrection - Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion for Sunday of The Blind Man - Tone 4

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, and call to You in repentance:// “Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion for the Feast of Holy Pascha - Tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God, proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,// granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

Prokeimenon Tone 8

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Alleluia Verses

Look upon me and have mercy on me!

Guide my steps according to Thy word!

The Hymn to the Theotokos

The angel cried to the Lady Full of Grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin! Again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead! Rejoice, all ye people! Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The Glory of the Lord has shone on you! Exult now and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn

Receive the Body of Christ! Taste the Fountain of Immortality! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

=== Scriptural Readings for the Week ===

Monday	Acts 17:1-5	John 11:47-57
Tuesday	Acts 17:19-28	John 12:19-36
Wednesday	Acts 18:22-28	John 12:36-47
Thursday	Acts 1:1-12	Luke 24:36-53
Friday	Acts 19:1-8	John 14:1-11
Saturday	Acts 20:7-12	John 14:10-21
Sunday	Acts 20:16-18,28-36 <i>{Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council}</i>	John 17:1-13

Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am *he*." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that* He *was* Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner *or not* I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear *it* again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; *as for* this *fellow*, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

ACTS 16:16-34

In those Days:

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe. Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

JOHN 9:1-38 (Sunday of The Blind Man)

Let us Attend!

Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY JUNE 6, 2021

6TH Sunday of Pascha: The Sunday of the Blind Man

The Hours – 9:40 AM Divine Liturgy–10:00 AM
Coffee Hour Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy!
Coffee Hour Host: Coffee Hour Donation: Church
Church School Class Via Google Classroom – 12:45 to 1:15 PM

WEDNESDAY JUNE 9, 2021

Leavetaking of the Resurrection of Our Lord (Holy Pascha) Eve of the Great Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

Divine Liturgy in Honor of Our Lord's Resurrection – 9:30 AM
Great Vespers with Litiya – 6:00 PM

THURSDAY JUNE 10, 2021

The Great Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

Festal Divine Liturgy –9:00 AM (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE)

SATURDAY JUNE 12, 2021

Great Vespers – 4:00 PM

SUNDAY JUNE 13, 2021

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The Hours – 9:40 AM Divine Liturgy–10:00 AM
Coffee Hour Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy!
Coffee Hour Host: Coffee Hour Donation: Church
Church School Class Via Google Classroom – 12:45 to 1:15 PM

****If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless and guide all of you!****

Also in the Parish Fellowship Hall, we have the Giving Tree! If anyone would like to sign up for Coffee Hour Readers Bulletin Collection, Communion Cloth, Home Blessing, please see or contact Fr. Jason!



A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS TO THE PARISH FROM OUR PARISH GIVING TREE

- The Kfoury Family for donating the flowers the Feast of The Ascension of Our Lord and for The Feast of The Dormition of The Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
- John and Gretchen Judge and Rebecca Torres for donating the Incense and Charcoal
- The Andrews Family, The Chmiel Family, and Linda Mucyn for donating the Ziplock Baggies for The Blessed Holy Bread
- The Andrews Family for donating the Communion Cups used for The Zapifka
- Paul and Joan Shosho for donating the Vigil Candles near The Icons of The Holy Sepulchre and The Icons of The Mother of God for the continued good health of their Family.
- Rebecca Torres for donating the flowers the Feast of The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Please be sure to check out "The Giving Tree" in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on our parish website (www.stgeorgebuffalo.com) to see how we may be able to donate towards the needs of our parish through our continued support and stewardship for our beloved parish.

If anyone has any questions, please see or contact Fr. Jason or Barbara.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support and stewardship.
May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families and our entire Parish family and keep all of us in His Loving Care!

WELCOME TO THE ORTHODOX CHURCH!

Do we have questions about our life, its meaning, purpose, destiny?
Are we desiring to know Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God?
Are we seeking forgiveness, healing, and wholeness?
Do we wonder where to go to find answers?

We can find the answers to these questions and so many other questions
in The Holy Orthodox Church through Her Sacred Tradition,
Holy Scriptures, Her Teachings and Dogmas.

The Orthodox Church is the original Christian Church, the Church founded by the Lord Jesus Christ and described in the pages of the New Testament. Her history can be traced in unbroken continuity all the way back to Christ and His Twelve Apostles, empowered and sent forth on the day of Holy Pentecost. Incredible as it seems, for over twenty centuries she has continued in her undiminished and unaltered faith and practice. Today her apostolic doctrine, worship, and structure remain intact. The Orthodox Church maintains that the Church is the living Body of Jesus Christ. Many of us are surprised to learn that for the first 1000 years of Christian history there was just one Church.

Where is **"The Church"** to be found and experienced today? Come Taste and See How Good The Lord is every Sunday by joining us for The Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

What is Orthodox Christianity all about? How does it differ from other Christian confessions? This section will attempt to answer these questions and many more. For a visual introduction to the Orthodox Church, please view the video link below: http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player_embedded&fs=1 For a brief introduction and in depth study to The Orthodox Faith and to find answers to: 'What we Believe?', "Who we Are?", and "How we Live?", please view the PDF link below:

<http://orthodoxdelmarva.org/files/studies/InquirersClassV1final.pdf>

or you may visit the OCA website by clicking the link below:

<http://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith>

or you can begin a Journey Through Orthodoxy by clicking the link below:

<http://journeytoorthodoxy.com>

To learn more ways that we can teach our children about the Orthodox Faith, The OCA has provided a wonderful website for us to use that provides great resources such as (handouts, texts, articles, stories, and much more)! To see this great website, please view the PDF link below:

<http://dce.oca.org/page/resources/>

If you have any questions or would like to know more about The Orthodox Faith, please contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch (jvansuch@hotmail.com) or 716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.

IMPORTANT DATES WITHIN THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH

Parish Announcements:

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission, Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace as well as Kevin Guest House and our other outreach ministry projects.
- **WE CONTINUE TO CONTACT ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS ON A REGULAR BASIS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS OKAY, SAFE AND HEALTHY.**

****Please be on the lookout for emails this week with the following items:**

1) Reader Outlines for ALL weekend SERVICES

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**EACH WEEK WE WILL BE RECORDING
THE WEEKLY INCOME FOR EACH SUNDAY AS WELL AS OFFERING THE
MONTHLY INCOME and EXPENSE FOR OUR PARISH!**

**INCOME FOR SUNDAY MAY 30, 2020 – \$ 3,118.00
& \$500 for Capital Improvement Fund
DONATIONS FOR THE NEW BOILER (Capital Improvement Fund) –
Total Donations so far for the New Boiler: \$19,130.00**

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND GUIDE YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!

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Please refer to the Weekly Bulletin and Church Website for any changes to the calendar!

DAILY FAMILY PRAYER RULE WE CAN PRAY TOGETHER AT HOME WITH OUR FAMILIES

A Prayer Rule must be done in front of the icons and the Gospel in our Icon Corners with a lit candle.. It is important to remember that we must make time for God, for the “Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force”(Matt. 11:12).The best time to pray is in the morning or in the evening when we as a family can come together in prayer. Also, when using a Rule of Prayer, we must be flexible and do what we can and do it attentively and consistently. Our goal is to maintain the connection with God and cultivate a real relationship with Him.

With that in mind, please find below The Rule of Prayer offered by our Diocese for us to use at home especially during this most difficult time when we are not able to be in church together as a parish family.

<https://www.nynjoca.org/files/2020/praying-at-home/A-FAMILY-PRAYER-RULE.pdf>

May God bless you and keep you always in His Loving Care!

ST. ANDREW'S CAMP

**** Saint Andrew's Camp has released a new promotional video for prospective campers!**

The video can be found here on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/saintandrewsorthodoxcamp/videos/357928144820497/>

****Be sure to check it out...you may recognize the priest:)**

For more than sixty years, St. Andrew’s Camp has offered the young people of our parishes an incredible summer camping experience. Children and teens have been instructed in prayer and the divine services, the reading of Scripture and the teachings of our Orthodox Church. They have been nourished with the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. They have had fun swimming, horseback riding, playing sports, singing and learning musical instruments, creating in the visual arts, learning to safeguard the planet, and exploring the stars. And they have established friendships that last a lifetime, met their future spouses, and nurtured their vocations to serve the Lord in ministry.

As a token of gratitude for the labors of love extended by the administration and staff, both clergy and laypersons, of St. Andrew’s over the past six decades, it is now time for us to help the Camp in an especially needed way.

Please join us in raising funds for the new multi purpose building which will include new kitchen, dining hall and activities center. The cost of this new building is \$300,000. To become a reality, the completion and furnishing of this much-needed center will require great generosity of individuals, organizations and parishes.

You can click on the link below which will take you to the gofundme.com page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/st-andrew039s-camp-fundraiser-by-ss-peter-and-paul>

As we continue to fulfill the work of Our Lord by living and fulfilling His Gospel Message, let us open our hearts and minds by providing support and assistance to our Diocese, to our children, by taking a moment to reflect upon what God has given us, and to discern how we might be able to return to God a portion of the blessings we have received.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you and your families for your continued prayers, support and generosity.

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****Also, make sure we check out the promotional video for prospective campers!**

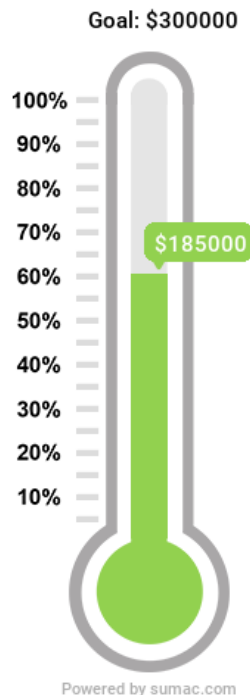
The video can be found here on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/saintandrewsorthodoxcamp/videos/357928144820497/>

****Be sure to check it out...you may recognize the priest:)**

New Dining Hall and Kitchen - \$300,000.00

\$185,000 has already been donated to the construction of our new Dining Hall and Kitchen.



****As part of our commitment of supporting the good work being done at St. Andrew's Camp of ministering to and nurturing the spiritual growth of our children in the love and faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we will be holding collections in response to the Diocesan Appeal during this Great Lenten and Paschal Season. ****



St. Andrew's Camp

Announcing 2021 Season!

It's time to beat the quarantine blues this summer at Camp! We are *very excited* to be reunited with our beloved campers for our 64th Camp Season of 5 glorious weeks in the beautiful outdoors on Lake Oneida, New York!

FAMILY WEEK July 5-10	HORSE WEEK 1 July 11-17	MISH MASH WEEK July 18-24
HORSE WEEK 2 July 25-31	TEEN WEEK August 1-7	



Click [here](#) to REGISTER your child for a summer of fun!

WAIT! WE WANT YOU TOO!

Are you ready to get out and interact with people? Want to make a difference in the lives of youth, while growing your faith and enjoying nature? Then helping out at Saint Andrew's Camp is for you!

We have a need for counselors, cooks & kitchen assistants, nurses, and weekend work crews. Join us for a weekend, a week or more!

Take your summer to the next level and join the fun and important ministry at Saint Andrew's Camp!

For more information about the camp program or helping out, contact the Camp Office at (315) 675-9771 or saintandrewscamp@aol.com

www.saintandrewscamp.org

www.facebook.com/standrewsorthodoxcamp

Remember our Loved Ones during Our Daily Prayers

'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

{Matt. 25:40}

As we say our daily prayers, let us also take time out to remember our loved ones who are homebound, who are in hospitals and who are in nursing homes. Let us remember them that GOD will continue to watch over them and protect them. Also, during the Year, let us take to either send them a card, give them a call, or visit them to let them know how much we love them, how much we remember them, and how much we pray for them.

Please refer to the of our Parish Shut-Ins below.

If anyone has any questions or would like to add someone to our List of Parish Shut-Ins, please see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless you and guide you!

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH SHUT-INS (2020)

Mrs. Diane Salvamoser 147 West Hazeltine Avenue Kenmore, NY 14217 716.875.9503	Reader Victor Shanchuk 495 Lafayette Avenue Buffalo, NY 14222 716.881.3096	Mrs. Luba Japadjief Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Unit) 245 Bassett Road Williamsville, NY 14221 (Room 30)
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Mrs. Catherine Tony 274 Wadsworth Ave. Tonawanda, NY 14150 716.695.3068	Mr. Albert Fadell 317.376.2562	Mrs. Bonnie Dan 15 Pine Street North Tonawanda, NY 14150 716.693.1377
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Andrew Wityk Ellicott Center 200 Seventh Street Buffalo, NY 14201	Mrs. Tita Abraham 84 Stonington Lane Gertzville, NY 14068
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WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

These sermons offered to us by The Diocese via video can be found on the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! There are videos for each week beginning with The Feast of Feasts – Holy Pascha! Be sure to check them out!

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An Invitation to Support the Stewards of the OCA!

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) set the direction for expanding our apostolic work in North America at the 18th All-American Council. The foundation for this work is Jesus Christ, Whom we encounter in our spiritual lives, stewardship, evangelism and outreach, and relations with others as we engage the world. Being a steward of the OCA goes beyond the financial gifts which support the work of our church. Being a steward is about caring for and knowing the history of the mission of the Orthodox Church here in North America and finding your place in that history. Having received this great gift of our Orthodox Faith, we bear the responsibility to continue the legacy of Saint Herman and Saint Tikhon; Saint Innocent and Saint Alexis and all the other saints known and unknown who have worked to build up and expand Christ's Church here in North America. Please consider being a part of that mission today by giving to the Stewards of the OCA. For more information, please visit The OCA Website: <https://oca.org/become-a-steward>

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An Invitation to Support the Ministry of the DDB!

In order to fund necessary ministries and fulfill the work of the Church in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** generously contribute financial support. To learn more about the DDB, please go to the following link: <http://vimeo.com/71021182> and watch a 60 second video inviting you to join the ever-growing list of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey who joyfully support the on-going work of our diocese. Their support allows us to provide assistance to new mission parishes, scholarships to seminarians, support the departments of The Diocese, and much-needed encouragement to older struggling parishes. How about you? Our parish is a member of the DDB. If anyone would like to join, please see Fr. Jason as well as take a pamphlet from the table in the back of the church. May God continue to bless and guide you for your continued support. The Diocese of New York and New Jersey has two monthly newsletters: "**First Fruits**" and "**Beyond the Plateau**." The goal, as expressed by Archbishop Michael, is to increase communication and grow the communal spirit of diocesan fellowship in the building-up and strengthening of our parish communities. To learn more about these monthly diocesan publications, please refer to the diocesan website: <http://www.nynjoca.org/newsletters.html>.

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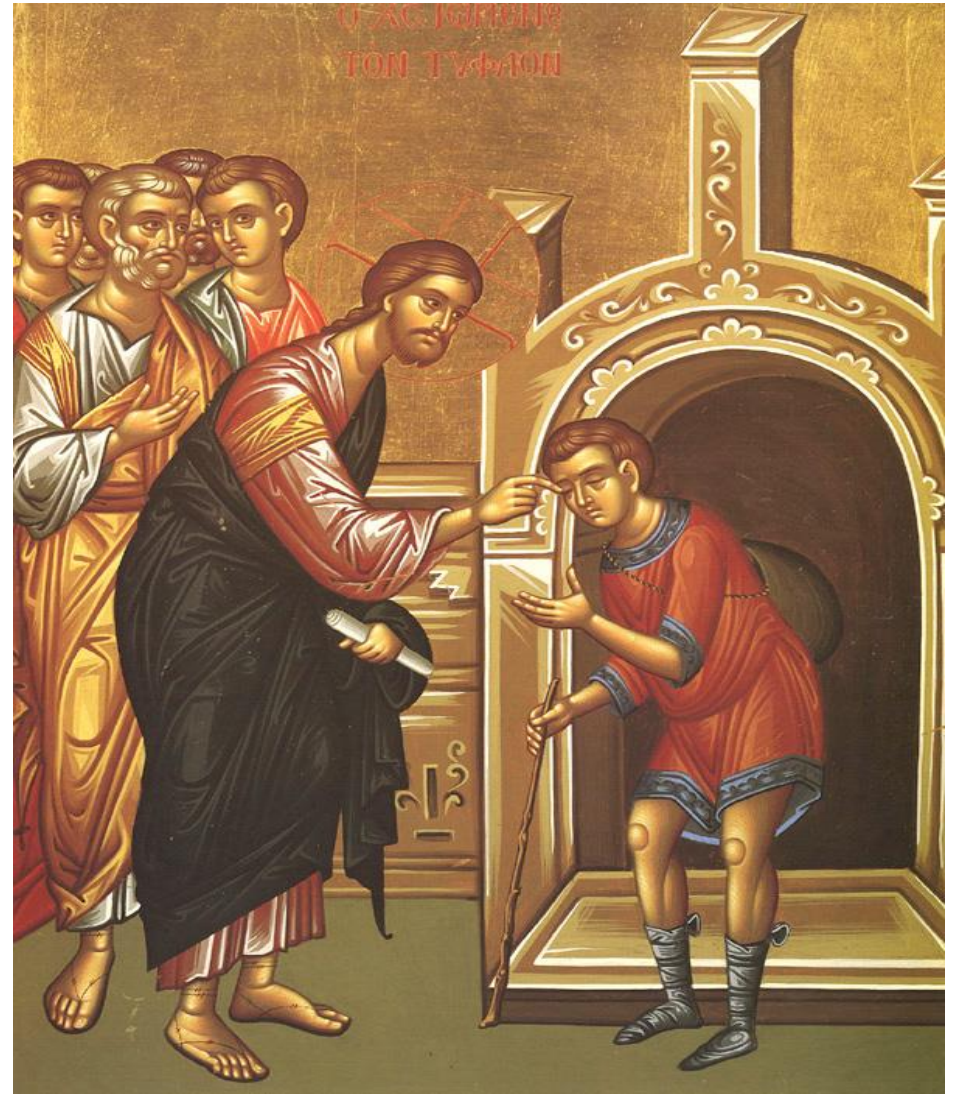
"Lessons in Our Faith" Video presented by His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL

His Eminence Archbishop Michael presents a series of talks on matters of faith, belief, and the teachings of the Church. These instructional videos are concise and "to the point," offering Orthodox Christians much-needed information, helpful advice for their spiritual journey, and assistance in answering questions that may come from non-Orthodox friends or acquaintances. The goal is that we might better know and better live our faith. These instructional videos can be found at the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! For those who do not have internet, please see the handouts from each lesson which are located on the table in the back of the church. **There are 14 videos! Be sure to check them out!**

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH BOOKSTORE

As you are in the Parish Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, don't forget to check out our newly-formed Bookstore. We have some new items that just arrived. These items include: Icon ornaments, jewelry, Icons, prayer books, prayers ropes, and much more. If you need a Gift, come check out the Bookstore...you may find something you like!! We are now also offering Gift Certificates for our Bookstore. Please speak with Dave or Andrea for more details/information!! We thank David and Andrea Chmiel who are managing of our Bookstore for us. If you have any questions or if you would like to order something that you do not see, please see or contact David or Andrea Chmiel and they will be able to assist you. You may also email them at: bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com. May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CORNER



[THE 6TH SUNDAY OF HOLY PASCHA:](#)
[THE SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN](#)

After the Midfeast (John 7:14), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (John 8:2). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man "who was blind from his birth (John 9:1).

The miracle described in today's Gospel (John 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. St Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, "Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes...."

The Gospel says, "Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind" (John 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mark 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man's empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

On this sixth Sunday of Holy Pascha, the healing of the Blind Man, we are identified with this man who came to see and to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. The Lord has anointed our eyes with his own divine hands and washed them with the waters of our baptism (**John 9:6-11**).

Jesus used clay of spittle and told the man to wash in the waters of Siloam. He did so because it was the Sabbath day on which spitting, clay-making 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.

There is scandal over the healing of the blind man on the Sabbath day. He is separated from the synagogue because of his faith in

Christ. The entire Church follows this man in his fate, knowing that it is those who do not see Jesus as the Lord who are really blind and still in their sins (*Jn 9:41*). The others have the light of life and can see and know the Son of God, for "you have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you" (*Jn 9:37*).

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, and call to Thee in repentance: Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness! (Kontakion)

In his MENAION, St Demetrius of Rostov calls the blind man St Celidonius (see his account of St Lazarus in the Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles on January 4).

An Orthodox Commentary on The Sunday of the Blind Man

{Taken from the OCA Department of Christian Education Weekly Bulletin Inserts}

We read the story of this encounter of Jesus Christ with a man born blind in John 9: 1-38. In the verses immediately preceding this story, He has told hostile questioners that He is "before Abraham" and claims the divine name, "I am." There is no longer any possibility of misunderstanding what He is saying; Jesus is declaring Himself to be the Son of God.

Having done this, He turns His full attention to one person—the man blind from birth. He is going to do a miracle, and because He has just said so unequivocally that He is the Divine Son, we might expect that He will draw down lightning bolts or do something equally dazzling.

But instead He shows Himself as Man, caring for the man who stands in front of Him. He doesn't do anything spectacular, but uses the most basic elements of the earth to do the miracle: "...He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay..." He tells the man to do a basic thing, too—to wash off the clay in

the pool of Siloam. By this simple, earthly act the man is healed and becomes able to see.

The other reading for this day is Acts 16: 16-34. These verses describe two instances in which Saint Paul follows Christ's example, being concerned for the person in front of him. The first encounter is with a slave girl who has "a spirit of divination" and makes money for her owners by foretelling events. Paul risks his own safety, and drives the spirit out of her in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sure enough, the owners are furious at having lost their income. They drag Paul and his companion Silas into the market place and accuse them of disturbing the city and advocating Jewish customs that are against Roman law. The magistrates and the crowd beat them with rods, and they are dragged off to prison, where their confinement is assured by their feet being fastened in the stocks.

For the second time, Paul extends concern. He does so to a person who is neither his companion nor a fellow prisoner, but who has been put in front of him. When an earthquake shakes the prison, all the prisoners' shackles are unfastened. The jailer is panicked, terrified and fully aware that he will be held responsible when all the prisoners escape. As he is about to kill himself, Paul calls out to him, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

This unexpected concern makes the jailer realize what kind of person Paul is, and he comes to believe in the God to whom Paul is so dedicated. He and his household are baptized that same night. They offer the former prisoners hospitality in their home, and everyone rejoices. They are truly in front of each other, and together in front of God.

[The Feast of The Holy Ascension of Our Lord](#)

This holy day is celebrated on the fortieth day after the Resurrection of Christ, on the Thursday of the sixth week of Pascha. The ascension of Christ into heaven is mentioned in the prophecies of the Scriptures. Christ Himself, upon His resurrection, said to Mary Magdalene: *"I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God"* (John 20:17).

This great event, with which Jesus' life on earth concludes, is briefly mentioned in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. But in the Acts of the apostles there is a fuller account. Gathering His disciples, Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to await what had been promised by the Father, that is the descent of the Holy Spirit. *"John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence . . . Ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"* (Acts 1:5, 8)..

. Saying this, He went with His disciples to Bethany and stopped on the Mount of Olives. "While they beheld, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall

so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven"
(Acts 1:9-11).

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem to where the Theotokos and the myrrh-bearing women were in prayer. In the Gospel of Mark it is written that upon ascending to heaven, the Lord sat upon the right side of God the Father, that is, the human soul and body of Jesus Christ took on the same glory as His Divinity.

Ascending to heaven, Jesus Christ promised to always be invisibly on earth among those who believe in Him.

THINK ABOUT IT ... True or False?

1. The story of the Blind Man teaches us that a person can suffer from both physical or spiritual blindness. True False Explain: _____
2. Christ said that the man's blindness was a punishment for the sins of his parents. True False Explain: _____
3. The Orthodox Church teaches that the scroll in Christ's hand contains the words, "I am the light of the world." True False Explain: _____
4. The Pharisees became disciples of Christ because he healed the Blind Man on a Sabbath day. True False Explain: _____
5. The Blind Man believed that Christ is the Son of God and worshiped Him. True False Explain: _____

The Sunday of The Blind Man

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

Noticing People

Have you ever walked into a room, and maybe you didn't notice that somebody was there? Maybe you thought you were all alone, or maybe you just noticed a friend or somebody you really wanted to talk to or see. Sometimes we might not see everything or everybody, or maybe sometimes we just don't care. In today's Gospel reading (and in lots of other ones too), we hear how our Lord, Jesus Christ noticed somebody who needed help. A young man couldn't see at all, and Jesus's helpers brought him to be healed. Jesus noticed him. He touched his eyes and healed him!

When we read the Gospels, we read so many other stories like this one. We read how our Lord noticed people who needed help. The Bible tells us that God is with us, and God still notices people who need help. When we pray to God, we ask Him to notice us too and to help us.

God wants us to notice others too. When we see people who need help, we can do our best to help them. Remember, Christ didn't ignore the blind or the sick or the lonely people or the people who couldn't walk. He didn't ignore the children either. Can you remember to pay attention to people who need help too?

JESUS CHRIST -- THE SON OF GOD from the Gospel of John 9:1-38 One day Jesus met a man who was blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him." Jesus told them that He had to do the work that the Father sent Him to do. He said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Then He spat on the ground, made clay with the saliva, and put the clay on the eyes of the blind man. And He told him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, "Sent"). So

the man went and washed, and he came back seeing. The people who previously had seen that he was blind asked him, "How were your eyes opened?" He told them what Jesus had done to heal him. When they asked him where Jesus was, he said, "I do not know." So they brought him to the Pharisees.

The man told the Pharisees how Jesus healed him. It was a Sabbath, so some of them said, "This Man is not from God, because He does work on the Sabbath." The man said, "He is a prophet." But they thought that Jesus was a sinful person and did not believe that Jesus had healed him. They asked his parents who said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he can now see, we do not know. He is of age; ask him." So they asked him again. He said, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" They were angry and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man was amazed that they did not know and he said, "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. ... If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They said, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out. He found him and asked him, "Do

you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The Kontakion (hymn) for today says: I come to You, O Christ, as the man blind from birth. With the eyes of my soul blinded, I cry out to You in repentance, "You are the resplendent Light of those in darkness."

SPIRITUAL "BLINDNESS"

In the icon of the Sunday of the Blind Man we see Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. Christ is shown putting the clay on the eyes of the man. He is with his disciples. The blind man is shown with his hand outstretched toward Christ, which shows us his faith and willingness to receive healing and grace from the Son of God. Christ has in His hand a scroll, on which the Orthodox Church tells us is written, "I am the light of the world," (John 9:5) and "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."

(John 9:39). Sometimes we "see" only what we want to see or we "see" only the things that are physical things. The story of Christ giving sight to the Blind Man tells us that Christ wants us to:

1. Pay attention! Belief in Christ guides people so “that those who do not see may see.” What that means is that sometimes people might be thinking about personal things in day-to-day life so much that they don’t pay attention to their spiritual lives.

2. Pay attention to the right things! When Christ said that He wanted that “those who see may become blind,” He was telling us that sometimes there are things in the world that catch our attention, but they might not always be good things. We should not spend a lot of time (or any time at all) paying attention to things that we know aren’t good for us. We should be “blind” to things that are evil and not allow them into our minds and lives.

3. Look to Christ! When Christ says, “I am the light of the world,” He tells us that it is only through belief in Him that we can “see.” He uses the word “see” to mean “to be enlightened” (as we learned in the story about the Samaritan Woman.) When we are “enlightened” that means that we “understand.” We know that Christ is the Son of God, our Saviour, Who loves us. When we pray to Him, He guides us and helps us to be spiritually healthy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Jason, Matushka Katia

Anna and Alexandra Vansuch

Cordially Invite You to a

Parish Open House/ Church School Picnic

Sunday, June 27, 2021

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

2 Nottingham Terrace

Buffalo, NY

Luncheon Refreshments will be served

Games and Activities for Children and Fellowship for Everyone!!

Please RSVP to Matushka Katia by Wednesday June 23

Katia.vansuch@gmail.com

609-851-3034

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****General Confession will be served on Sunday June 27 at 9:00 AM.****

1) **The Holy and Great Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord**

Wednesday June 9, 2021

Typika Service in honor of Our Lord Resurrection – 9:30 AM

Great Vespers with Litiya – 6:00 PM

Thursday June 10, 2021

Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

2) **The Holy and Great Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist**

Wednesday June 23, 2021

Great Vespers with Litiya – 6:00 PM

Thursday June 24, 2021

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

3) **The Holy and Great Feast of Ss Peter and Paul**

Monday June 28, 2021 (STRICT FAST DAY)

Great Vespers with Litiya – 6:00 PM

Tuesday June 29, 2021

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

4) **Annual Parish Open House/Church School Picnic/Moleben - SUNDAY**

JUNE 27

*Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday June 27, we will be holding Our Annual Parish Open House at the Rectory/Church School Picnic. We will also be holding the End-of-the year Moleben Prayer Service of Thanksgiving for the Church School. An email and mailing will be going out with More details and information.

Please plan on joining us for the celebration as we have a day planned filled with activities for everyone, good food, and lots of Fellowship.

A Very Special Celebration of the

The Great Feast of Holy Pentecost

JUNE 20, 2021

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 on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of 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.

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the “day without evening” of God’s eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ’s disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to “appropriate” these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

To read the rest:

http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/pentecost

LINKS TO LEARN ABOUT PENTECOST:

http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/pentecost

http://www.goarch.org/chapel/saints_view?contentid=961&PCode=7PS&D=S&date=6/8/2014

<http://lent.goarch.org/family/pentecost.asp>

Join the celebration!!

MANY LANGUAGES

When we come together for the Pot-Luck Luncheon on the Feast of Holy Pentecost (SUNDAY JUNE 20), we will be singing ‘The Our Father’ in the various languages of our parish that represent the different ancestral backgrounds altogether simultaneously to represent The Holy Spirit coming down upon the faithful on that First Day of Pentecost and divided the

tongues. If you know ‘The Our Father’ in your native language or another language, please let Fr. Jason know so that he can compile a list. So far we have the following languages:

English	Greek
Russian	Eritrean
Albanian	Spanish
Bulgarian	Ukrainian
Georgian	Romanian
Arabic	Macedonian

ETHNIC FOODS

We invite you to bring in an ethnic food to share during coffee hour. We hope to see foods from all different ethnicities that reflect the fact that our parish represents people from all different ancestral backgrounds.

If you will be bringing in a pot-luck dish, please let Mat. Katia know by either speaking with her or emailing her: katia.vansuch@gmail.com or call/text her (609.851.3034)

A list of the foods will be sent out separately in preparation for our Annual Festive Ethnic Luncheon.

WEAR GREEN TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY JUNE 20

Many times you will hear Pentecost being called "Green Sunday." So we hope you will wear green to help enhance the special celebration. (Do you think that green is only for the Irish to wear green for a holiday?)

BRING GREEN CUTTINGS

If you can, please cut some greens from your property and bring them in with you on SATURDAY JUNE 19... that we can use to help decorate the church; any length would good☺

We hope to see everyone on Sunday June 20, wearing green, bringing in a favorite ethnic food, and joining in this special Holy Day of Holy Pentecost.

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Father's Day Luncheon - SUNDAY JUNE 20

*Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday June 20, we will be having our Annual Father's Day Luncheon in the Parish Fellowship Hall in connection with our Annual Festive Ethnic Luncheon. Please plan on joining us for the Divine Liturgy during which we will remember all of our beloved fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles, and men of our parish and families as we ask God's blessings upon all of them for continued good health and happiness as well as rest eternal and blessed repose to our beloved fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles, and men of our parish and families who now lie asleep in the Lord.