

## UPDATE ON FULL RE-OPENING OF OUR PARISH – JUNE 2021

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 and the new directives and announcements from Governor Andrew Cuomo:

1. With these new directives and announcements from Governor Andrew Cuomo, we will no longer be requiring a mask mandate. However, to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and safe while attending Divine Services and Fellowship Activities at our parish, we will make the wearing of masks a voluntary decision. If someone wishes to continue to wear a mask, that is their choice and their right to. If someone chooses not to wear a mask, that is their choice not to wear a mask. This is to ensure that we, as a parish family and as brothers and sisters in Christ, minister in every way possible through love to those who come to St. George Orthodox Church to grow in their faith and love of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Out of love, care, concern, and the well-being of EVERYONE, The Clergy, when distributing Holy Communion and Holding The Cross at the Veneration of the Cross/Dismissal and whenever there is interaction between The Clergy and parishioners, The Clergy will be wearing a mask to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone. As a parish family, let us continue to love one another, respect one another, and pray for and with one another! As I have mentioned previously, the topic of vaccinated vs unvaccinated has no place in our parish. That is a private and individual matter and choice and above that is a HIPAA Privacy Law!

We will also continue to have hand sanitizer and masks available for everyone who wishes to use them to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes to St. George Orthodox Church for Divine Services and Fellowship Activities. These precautions are for the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes and enters our Church to pray and worship God.

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.
6. We will be passing the Stewardship Collection Plate during The Litany before The Lord's Prayer
7. The Church, Parish Hall, and Restrooms will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week

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!



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

**[www.stgeorgebuffalo.com](http://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**

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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](mailto:pshosho@me.com)

### **2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. All Saints of America**

St. Andrew, Archbishop of Crete (712). Ven. Andrei Rublev (14th-15th c.). Ven. Martha, mother of Ven. Simeon the Stylite (the Younger—554). Burial of St. Andrei Bogoliubsky (1174). Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Evfimii (Euthymius), Archimandrite, of Suzdal' (1507). Martyrs Theodotus and Theodotia at Caesarea in Cappadocia (108). Hieromartyr Theodore, Bishop of Cyrene in Libya and with him Martyrs Cyprilla, Aroa, and Lucia (310). Ven. Tikhon, Vasily and Nikon, Monks, of Solovétsky Monastery

**EPISTLE:** Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Romans 2:10-16

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

*(Saints)*

**GOSPEL:**

Matthew 4:18-23

Matthew 4:25-5:12

### **GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!**

**\*\*FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK\*\***

In front of the Icon of Our Lord, In front of the Icon of The Theotokos, and on the Center Icon Table are donated by St. George Church

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**Altar Candles** are offered by Anthony DelNuovo in Loving Memory of Thy Departed Servants of his family. May their memory be eternal.

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**TODAY'S WEEKLY MESSENGER IS SPONSORED BY:**

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

### **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.

## **THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES**

### **SUNDAY JULY 4, 2021**

### **THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA**

The Hours – 9:10 AM Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

Coffee Hour Fellowship/Hot Dog Luncheon in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy!

Coffee Hour Host:

Coffee Hour Donation: Church

## **INDEPENDENCE DAY**



On July 4, 1776, we claimed our independence from Britain and Democracy was born. Every day thousands leave their homeland to come to the "land of the free and the home of the brave" so they can begin their American Dream. The United States is truly a diverse nation made up of dynamic people. Each year on July 4, Americans celebrate that freedom and independence with barbecues, picnics, and family gatherings. As we celebrate this Day of Independence with our family and friends, let us give thanks to The Almighty God for the great blessings He has bestowed upon us as a Nation, as a City, and as a Parish. Let us take time out of our day and say a prayer giving thanks to Almighty God for all of those blessings seen and unseen.

May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you and your families.

### **SATURDAY JULY 10, 2021**

Great Vespers– 4:00 PM

### **SUNDAY JULY 11, 2021**

### **THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA**

The Hours – 9:10 AM Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

Coffee Hour Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy!

Coffee Hour Host: Boris and Barbara Kuvshinoff

Coffee Hour Donation: Church

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS  
FOR THE HEALTH OF THY SERVANTS:**

**HIERARCHS**

Metropolitan HERMAN Bishop DANIEL Archbishop ALEJO

**CLERGY**

Archpriest Herman, Matushka Cynthia and George *(Schick)* Archpriest James and Mat. Patricia *(Mason)*  
 Archpriest Alexey and his family *(Karlgut)* Archpriest Vladimir and Matushka Jeanne  
 Archpriest Timothy/Mat. Michelle Archpriest Michael and Mat. Valerie *(Hatrak)*  
 Archpriest Ken and Matushka Natalie *(Starevsky)* Dn. Sean and Mat. Heather *(McNulty)*  
 Archpriest Gregory and Mat. Diane *(Winsky)* Priest Peter and Mat. Mary *(Irfan)*  
 Archpriest Leonid Archpriest David *(Mezinski)* Presbyter John and Presbyter Nancy  
**MATUSHKI** Presbyter Andreja, Popadija Anica and Family  
 Mat. Katia Mat. Paraskeva Mat. Joanna Popadia Vicki Mat. Christine Mat. Patricia *(Severeno)*  
 Mat. Gloria *(Martin)*

**Family/Friends/Parishioners of St. George Orthodox Church**

Catherine Ivan/Marina/Inna Bonnie *(Dan)* Coard Karen Alicia *(Nick Rostko)* Walter, Paul  
 Edwina Irene Luba Silvu Dan, Jr. Jim, Darren, Marsha *(Relatives of Elaine M.)*  
 Serena Lillian Reader Victor Nicholas, Andrew *(Wityk)* Frank *(Barb. K brother-in-law)*  
 Sarah Oscar Albert *(Fadell)* Frank Boris *(Kuvshinoff)* Marilyn *(Linda cousin)*  
 Xenia, Justin, Danielle *(Friends of Fr. Jason)* Larry Joseph *(Rocco Father in Law)* Ronald, Candice *(Masset)*  
 Victor *(Tita Nephew)* Catherine *(Tony)* Susan *(Kirwan)* June *(Pavlov)*  
 Evelyn *(Friend of Julie)* Billy *(William – Mat. Christine’s cousin)* Clyde Allison *(school)*  
 Robert *(Phillips)* Rebecca *(Relative of Mat. Christine)* Svetlana *(Family friend of Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia)*  
 Jeanne *(Mat. Christine’s Friend)* Angela, Jason, Michelle *(Relatives of Dn. Mark)* Linda Justin *(Slaiman)*  
 Carol *(Mailman’s sister-in-law)* Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria *(Ewing)* Ashley *(Friend from Roswell)*  
 Melody Lee *(Beth’s brother)* Lee, Bridget *(John Kirwan friend)* Paul *(Shosho)* Brain *(Brother of Matthew Just)*  
 Kelly, Robert, Boris, Zaeb, Tirza, Sabas Sada Thisinitsa, Gemmal, Geesa, and Patric *(Fr. Peter)* Child Senit  
 Anne *(Mariami Grandmother)* Jeremy Stewart *(nephew of Bill George)* Susan *(Zumba)* Juliana *(Matusiak)*  
 Susan *(Deeb)* Justin *(Cmunt)* Louis *(cousin of Barbara)* Yuri/Elena Alex *(Valieff)* John, Kevin Irene Sean  
 Jaime *(Zumba)* Rosemary Harry *(neighbor of Tom and MaryAnne Slaiman)* Anthony *(DelNuovo)*  
 Aspasia *(Dean’s Mother)* Charles Seraphim Emma/Alexander *(relatives of Natalie Huett)*  
 Olga *(Friend of Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia)* Vadym Iryna Yuriy Anastasia Noah *(McEntee)* Elias, John, Joseph  
 Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber Judithann *(Friend of Barbara)* Steven *(Uncle of Dean)*  
 Barbara *(Rdr. John’s Sister in Law)* William *(Friend of Judge Family)* John, Helen *(Parents of Tanya Cmunt)*  
 Brian John, Roberta, Barbara *(Family of Dana and Annette)* John, Michael John Matthew *(Bashira)*  
 Rdr Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga, Clara *(Bethlehem)*  
 Jeffry, Dominic, Rachel *(Family of Andrea)* Lee, Benjamin, Harry Patrick *(Relatives of Beth Mellas)* Stephen

**Diocese of NY&NJ Prayer List**

Protopresbyter Leonid *(Kishkovsky)* Archpriest Samuel *(Kedela)* Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar  
 Archpriest George *(Hasenecz)* Archpriest Paul *(Shafra)* Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Mat. Myra *(Kovalek)*  
 Archpriest Jonathan *(Ivanoff)* Archpriest Paul *(Kucynda)* Archpriest Sergei and Mat. Gerry *(Glagolev)*  
 Archpriest Terenti *(Wasielewski)* Dn. Stephan *(Karlgut)*

**Expectant Mothers**

Randy Iris, Pete, Sara Douglas, Chris Costa *(Father of Pete Thanos)*  
 Jonathan Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo, Dragiza, Karl

**Those Serving in The Armed Forces**

Kenneth, Nadine, Jason, Robert, Andrew, Justin, Shawn, Austin, Juanita Martha, Rebecca, Nathaniel, Selatheal  
 Chris, John, Daniel, Gjorgie

**FOR THY DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD:**

All of the clergy and parishioners of This Holy House who have departed this life, who now lie asleep in the Lord.

Ever-Memorable Archpriest Eugene Vansuch Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Timko  
 Ever-Memorable Priest John Bohush Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Aswad  
 Ever-Memorable Archpriest Rastko Matushka Dorothy *(Timko)* Met. THEODOSIUS  
 Ever-Memorable Dn. Mark Ever-Memorable Sbdn. Gregory  
 Ever-Memorable Pdn. Gregory Martha, Akhtar Remyat, and Barkat *(Family of Fr. Peter)*  
**Newly-Departed Servants of God** Helen, Ord, Cynthia, Chelsea

\*If anyone would like to have their loved ones added to the prayer list for remembrance during the Divine Liturgy, please see or contact Fr. Jason.

**HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY**

**Troparion for Resurrection – Tone 1**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! // Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

**Troparion for Feast of All Saints of North America— Tone 8**

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation, the lands of North America offer to Thee, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

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

**Kontakion for Resurrection – Tone 1**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee: // “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

***Now and Ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.***

### **Kontakion for Feast of All Saints of North America – Tone 3**

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. With them the Angels glorify Him, and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them; // and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.

### **PROKEMEINON Tone 1**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

*v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!*

### **ALLELUIA VERSES**

*God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.*

*He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.*

*Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, O ye righteous!*

### **THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

It is truly meet to bless You, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement, You gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify You!

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> 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!**

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### **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](mailto:bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com). May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

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**Scriptural Readings for the Week**=====  
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<b>Monday</b>	Romans 7:1-13	Matt. 9:36-10:8
<b>Tuesday</b>	Romans 7:14-8:2	Matt. 10:9-15
<b>Wednesday</b>	Romans 8:2-13	Matt. 10:16-22
<b>Thursday</b>	Romans 8:22-27	Matt. 10:23-31
<b>Friday</b>	Romans 9:6-19	Matt. 10:32-36;11:1
<b>Saturday</b>	Romans 3:28-4:3	Matt. 7:24-8:4
<b>Sunday</b>	Romans 5:1-10	Matt. 6:22-33

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**PARISH THEME FOR 2021: Orthodox Christian Stewardship**

**Orthodox Christian Stewardship** is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed. **Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges** accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God by teaching and giving examples of a virtuous life to all (St. John Chrysostom). A primary goal of Stewardship is to strengthen our understanding of the teachings and dogmas of The Orthodox Faith through supporting the work of The Church. This can be found in The Divine Services as reiterated by St. John of San Francisco: "The Divine Services in their composition contain all the fullness of the dogmatic teaching of the Church and set forth the path of salvation." Fulfilling our responsibility of continual learning begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. Through being Stewards of the Gospel and of The Orthodox Church, Education calls on the faithful to cheerfully receive instruction given to the Church by Our Lord, Holy Scripture, The Divine Services, and The Holy Fathers of the Church. Through Orthodox Christian Stewardship, The Church promotes spiritual growth and strengthened faith and calls on all of us to bring the faith and love of Our Lord to every aspect of our lives as gifts from Him through our time, talents, and treasures. During this year, let us come together as a parish family and recommit ourselves to both spiritual growth of our Life in Christ as well as through Orthodox Christian Stewardship by attending the Divine Services, attending the many opportunities of Education for both Adults and Children through Retreats, gatherings, and fellowship and by supporting our Parish in her many endeavors through which, by the Grace of God, we will bring the light and love of Our Lord to all!

**EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY**

**Hebrews 11:33-12:2**

**BRETHREN:**

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**ROMANS 2:10-16**

**BETHREN:**

But glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.

For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

Matthew 4:18-23

Let us Attend!

At that time Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

MATTHEW 4:25-5:12

LET US ATTEND:

Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

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THE FEAST OF SS PETER AND PAUL

JUNE 29

Ss. Peter and Paul are commemorated by the Orthodox Church on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The feast occurs on this day, not because it is when the Apostles were martyred, but instead because it was on this day in 258 AD that Pope Sixtus II moved their relics to the catacomb of St. Sebastian in Rome. The Church has celebrated the Feast on June 29<sup>th</sup> since the fourth century.

The Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul is directly linked to our celebration of Pentecost, because the evangelistic work of the Apostles in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ was empowered by the descent of the Holy Spirit. St. Irenaeus of Lyon, a second century Christian, wrote about the spiritual power of the Apostles' work: *The Lord of all gave to His apostles the power of the gospel, and by them we also have learned the truth, that is, the teaching of the Son of God — as the Lord said to them, 'He who hears you hears Me, and he who despises you despises Me, and Him Who sent Me' (Luke 10:16). For we learned the plan of our salvation from no other than from those through whom the gospel came to us. The first preached it abroad, and then later by the will of God handed it down to us in Scriptures, to be the foundation and pillar of our faith...They went out to the ends of the earth, preaching the good things that come to us from God, and proclaiming peace from heaven to all men, all and each of them equally being in possession of the gospel of God.*

Within an icon of Ss. Peter and Paul, one can see the details that tell us a great deal about why Orthodox Christians venerate Ss. Peter and Paul.

First, Ss. Peter and Paul are displayed together (in many other icons, their heads are inclined toward each other, or they are even shown giving each other the kiss of peace). They are together to demonstrate the unity of the faith, as well as the unity of the two groups of the early Church: Jews (to whom St. Peter had a special ministry) and Gentiles (to whom St. Paul had a special ministry). Second, Ss. Peter and Paul are holding a church, showing that they cooperated in spreading the Gospel and building the Church. It is this cooperation that provides the apostolic foundation of the Church (Ephesians 2:20). Third, if you look closely at their faces and clothes, you will see that they appear to glow. This light is not simply a reflection of the sun: it comes from within the saints, demonstrating their holiness (you will see this in all icons of Christ and the saints).



**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](http://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](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](mailto: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 JUNE 27, 2020 – \$ 833.00  
& \$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:)**



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**\*\*General Confession will be served on Sunday JULY 11 at 9:00 AM.\*\***

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**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE FOR DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAYS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS (JUNE-JULY-AUGUST)! DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAYS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 9:30 AM DURING THESE MONTHS!\*\***

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For new updates on The Life of our Diocese, Please look up the below weblink for the website of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey:

<https://www.nynjoca.org>

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

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com). May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

## **ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CORNER** **THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA**

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all of the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs; Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering.

Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. St Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837. Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, St Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were St Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and St Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive St Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

St Tikhon (Belavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, St Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America in order to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

St Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907, and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown. St Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

St Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at St Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, St Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to St Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. St Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907 at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission." Guidelines and directions for missionary activity, and statutes for the administrative structure of parishes were also set forth.

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Sts John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before

going back to Russia. St John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in St Petersburg. St Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God, and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

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Rejoice, O continent of North America, illumined by the Holy Gospel.

Rejoice, every province, state, city, and town, which raised up citizens of the heavenly Kingdom.

Rejoice, our venerable Father Herman, first Saint of our land. Rejoice, O Martyrs Juvenal and Peter,

for your blood has watered the seed of faith planted in Alaska. Rejoice, O holy Hierarchs: Innocent, Tikhon and Nicholas, Rejoice, O holy Father Alexis and you righteous priests, Rejoice, All Saints of North America, for your light has shone forth to the ends of the earth. We beseech you to pray to Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

{Taken from the Stikhera on Lord, I Call}

ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA, PRAY UNTO GOD FOR US!

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## Second Sunday after Pentecost Come Follow Me

### Matthew 4:18-23

From The Explanation of the Gospel of St. Matthew

by Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

**18-19. As He was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishermen; and He saith unto them.**

These two had been disciples of John, and while John was still living they had approached Christ. But when they saw John arrested, they returned again to their fishing, and so Christ comes, fishing for them, and says:

**19-20. Come follow Me and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed Him.**

Behold obedient men, who followed Him immediately. From this it is clear that this is the second time that He called them. For they had been taught by Christ on a previous occasion [see Jn. 1:35-42], then left Him, and when they saw Him again followed Him readily.

**21. And going on from thence, He saw two other brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a boat with Zebedee their father.**

It is the greatest of virtues to care for one's father in his old age, and for the father to be supported by the just labors of his sons. **Mending their nets.** They were poor and as they were unable to buy new nets, they were stitching together their old ones.

**22. And they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him.**

It appears that Zebedee did not believe and it is for this reason that they left him. Do you see when it becomes necessary to leave one's father? When the father becomes an impediment to virtue and reverence for God. When James and John saw the first two follow Christ, they rightly followed Christ as well, imitating their good example.

**23. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom.**

Jesus enters the synagogues of the Hebrews to show that He is not opposed to the law. **And healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.** He begins with miracles, to give credibility to what He teaches. By *disease* is meant chronic illness, and by *infirmity*, a temporary bodily disorder.

# ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA ACTIVITY BOOK FOR CHILDREN and PARENTS

Department of Christian Education • Orthodox Church in  
America

<http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/american-saints.pdf>

This activity book was created by The Department of Christian Education of The Orthodox Church in America (2007) with the intention of providing information and creative activities featuring twelve North American Saints who are widely recognized as shining examples of our Orthodox faith on this continent. The materials were designed for both family and classroom use. Parents, older siblings or teachers can read the stories and work on the puzzle activities with children too young to read. In a classroom setting, this book can be used as supplemental reading and enhance other Orthodox curriculum materials you may be utilizing on this topic. Please be sure to visit the website of the Orthodox Church in America at [dce.oca.org](http://dce.oca.org) where there is much more information about many other saints. Coming from various backgrounds and situations and through many struggles, including persecutions and death, they remained ever faithful to the true faith. May they always guide and protect us.

*{Taken from the Department of Christian Education of The Orthodox Church in America}*

## A PRAYER TO ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA

Blessed and wise saints of God, who have been sanctified in North America by your holy deeds, and having left your relics as seeds of the Orthodox faith, you now stand before the throne of God in ceaseless prayer for our land. We sinners made bold on this day offer to you these hymns of praise. We exalt your great and holy deeds, spiritual warriors of Christ, who with patience and courage have vanquished the enemy, delivering us from his craft and cunning. We bless your holy lives, lamps of God, who have shown the light of grace and virtue and have illumined our minds and hearts with the knowledge of God. We glorify your great miracles, flowers of paradise, who have blossomed in our land, spreading the sweet fragrance of your gifts and wonders. We praise your love that reflects God's own love, defenders and intercessors, and trusting in your help, we fall down before you and cry: Holy Hierarchs and Enlighteners of North America: Innocent, Tikhon, Raphael, John, Nicholas, Alexis, Sebastian, and Mardarius! Help us the faithful here in this new land to preserve steadfastly the Orthodox faith that you have planted in us as a seed that, watered by divine rain, will bring forth fruit a hundredfold. Confirm the Church here by your prayers, and gather the scattered sheep into one flock, preserving it safe from all harm. Holy Father Herman of Alaska, first sanctified in this new land, keep us from the delusions of this transitory life, that denying ourselves and taking up our cross, we may follow Christ, crucifying our flesh with its sins and passions, and bearing each others burdens. Saints known and unknown, who have shown through the history of this land, remember our weakness and hardship, and by your prayers beseech Christ our God, that we, having successfully crossed the sea of this life, may reach the harbor of eternal salvation together with you who have served Him throughout the ages. Through the grace and compassion and love of mankind of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom together with the Eternal Father and the Most Holy Spirit be never-ending glory and worship by all creation unto ages of ages. Amen.

## **PRAYER FOR OUR NATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY**

O Lord, God of hosts, the God of our salvation, Who alone does wonders, in mercy and Goodness look upon us, Your humble servants, as the lover of mankind hear us and have mercy on us!

Help us, O God our Savior, and deliver us, for the glory of Your name, and grant that we may say with truth, as Moses did when he spoke to the people of Israel, saying: "Be bold, and stand fast; and you shall see the salvation that comes from the Lord. The Lord shall fight for you": as our helper and defender, O Lord, hear us and have mercy on us!

O Lord God our Savior, our Strength, our Hope and our Protection: remember not the transgressions and unrighteousness of Your people, and turn not away from us; in Your mercy and goodness look upon us as we bow down before Your loving-kindness. Rise up to help us. Be merciful even to the forgiveness of sins of those who have perished in sudden death. Bring healing, comfort and hope to the wounded and the grieving. Grant Your light and Your strength to suffering families and communities and to all Your people. Teach us to do Your will and vindicate those who call on Your Name, O Lord, for we have no other God than You and You alone are compassionate and just and our only sure and certain hope: hear us, O Lord, and have mercy on us!

O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, the God of mercy, love, and compassion, open the hearts and minds of our enemies that they may turn away from evil, from anger, and from hatred and turn rather to the understanding of Thy Gospel and Holy Will as the lover of mankind hear us and have mercy on us!

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, we pray for the President of our country, the Congress of the United States, for all civil authorities, and the armed forces; and grant them wisdom and strength, sustaining and guiding them all the days of their life!

We pray for the wounded and all those who suffer and grieve: that the Lord our God will look upon them with compassion, and that He will

heal and comfort, strengthen and preserve them, and have mercy on them.

We pray for families and friends and communities suffering bitter sorrow and tragic loss; that the Lord our God may be their shepherd and consolation..

We pray for those who are anxious, confused and fearful: that they may find consolation, hope, and courage in Christ our loving Savior and our God, we pray Thee, hear us and have mercy.

We pray for all who serve in the Armed Forces of our country on land and sea and in the air; that the Lord our God will bless them to protect and defend our land, and bring them safely out of every peril and danger, and ever sustain them with the comfort of His mercy!

We pray for those who have given of their life in defense of our nation and her freedom that the Lord our God may look upon them with mercy, and give them rest where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, but life everlasting, remembering their readiness to give their lives for the lives of others, and that the Lord our God will crown them with glory and honor!

Again we pray for ourselves and one another: that our sins may be forgiven, our hearts cleansed, and our minds turned to righteousness; that the Lord our God will protect, comfort, and guide us; that we may show goodness in the face of evil, and be delivered from temptation to hate and seek vengeance; that in the pursuit of justice we be found worthy of a blessing; and that we, bearing the Name of Christ, may live in hope and may be found His worthy and honorable servants in times of trial and temptation.

For Thou art the protection, the Victory and the Salvation of those who hope on Thee, and we glorify Thee: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**PARISH-WIDE DISCUSSION  
SUNDAY JULY 18, 2021**

During A Special Coffee Hour Luncheon hosted by The Parish Council on Sunday July 18, we will have our Parish-Wide Discussion during which we will be discussing and reviewing the following areas of our parish:

**Pastor's Report**

- a. Update on Parishioners/Parish Membership/New Parishioners
- b. Update on Parish Life (Liturgical, Spiritual, Administrative)
- c. Parish Fundraisers
- d. Parish Outreach Ministry Projects

**Financial Report**

- a. Quarterly Financial Report
- b. Stewardship
- c. Investment Committee Update

**Parish Council Report**

- a. Projects (Kitchen Remodeling Project)
- b. 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - 2023
- c. Updates

**\*\*Questions and Answers and Open Discussion on  
The Life and Mission of our beloved parish of St. George!\*\***

Please plan on staying as we come together as a parish family to discuss the life and mission of our beloved parish. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let myself or Paul or any member of the parish council know. Please bring your thoughts, ideas, questions, concerns on Sunday July 18!! Thank you for your continued prayerful support. May God continue to bless and guide you, your families and our entire parish family.

**I May Never See Tomorrow**

I may never see tomorrow,  
there's no written guarantee  
And things that happened yesterday  
belong to history.  
I cannot predict the future,  
I cannot change the past,  
I have just the present moments,  
I must treat it as my last.  
I must use this moment wisely  
for it soon will pass away,  
and be lost forever,  
as part of yesterday  
I must exercise compassion,  
help the fallen to their feet,  
Be a friend unto the friendless,  
make an empty life complete.  
The unkind things I do today  
may never be undone,  
And friendships that I fail to win  
may nevermore be won.  
I may not have another chance  
on bended knees to pray,  
and I thank God with a humble heart  
for giving me this Day.

(anonymous)

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**FR. JASON WILL BE AWAY AT ST. ANDREW'S CAMP  
MONDAY JULY 5-SATURDAY JULY 10**

IF THERE IS A PASTORAL EMERGENCY OR IF ANYONE NEEDS THE ASSISTANCE OF A PRIEST, PLEASE CONTACT FR. ANDREJA OR FR. PETER! IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN THE PARISH THAT NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, PLEASE CONTACT PAUL SHOSHO.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS AND GUIDE ALL OF YOU!