

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

Until further notice, we will continue celebrating the Divine Services up to no more 45 parishioners in attendance. With this in mind, if single parish members or parish member households - UP TO 45 PEOPLE IN CHURCH AT EACH DIVINE LITURGY - would like to attend the Divine Liturgy on a Sunday please refer to the following signup link <https://signup.com/go/AqSQSmX> ** (Slots 1-45 in the Church and 46-70 in the Parish Fellowship Hall)! **PLEASE SIGN-UP BY 6:00 PM ON SATURDAY NIGHT AS WELL AS ANSWER THE COVID QUESTIONNAIRE!!

Regarding Holy Communion:

- If anyone would like to come and receive Holy Communion or if you would like Fr. Jason to come and bring Holy Communion to your home, please contact him to make arrangements:
jvansuch@hotmail.com/609.851.3811/716.875.4222

Regarding Holy Confession:

Taking into consideration the spiritual and mental healing that comes through the Sacrament of Confession, His Eminence blesses, for all priests and communities in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, that for this period:

- Confession may continue to be held over the telephone or by live video communication; it may also be done in person with social distancing kept between the priest and the penitent (6 feet), and with face masks worn by both. The Prayer of Absolution can be given by video or phone and especially in person.
- When Confession is heard over the telephone or by live video, the priest must read the Prayer of Absolution before ending the phone call or video communication, in the hearing of the penitent.
 - If anyone would like to have Confession, please contact Fr. Jason to make arrangements:
jvansuch@hotmail.com/609.851.3811/716.875.4222

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Please look up the below weblink for the Digital Edition of The Jacobs Well:
<https://issuu.com/jacobswell/docs/jacobs-well-fall-2019-nk>

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 Gradual Approach of Re-Opening of our Parishes:

<https://www.nynjoca.org/files/2020/covid-19/Diocesan-Directives-on-the-Gradual-Re-Opening-of-Diocesan-Churches-2020-05-08-For-Distribution.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

4th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 3. Paralytic. St. Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada (831).
Synaxis of the Saints of Rostov—Yaroslav'. Ven. Euphrosynē, Abbess of Polótsk (1173). Ven. Paísii,
Abbot of Galich (1460). Martyr Michael "the Black-robed" of St. Savva Monastery

EPISTLE: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Acts 9:32-42

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!

GOSPEL:

John 5:1-15

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.

THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

Sunday	May 23	4th Sunday of Holy Pascha: Sunday of The Paralytic	
		9:40 A.M.	The Hours
		10:00 A.M.	Divine Liturgy
		Coffee Hour Fellowship in The Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy	
		12:45 TO 1:15 P.M.	Virtual Church School Class Via Google Classroom
Tuesday	May 25	8:30 A.M.	Daily Matins
		THE MIDFEAST OF PENTECOST	
Wednesday	May 26	9:30 A.M.	Divine Liturgy
		6:00 P.M.	Little Compline/Paraklesis Service
Thursday	May 27	8:30 A.M.	Akathist to Our Lord
Saturday	May 29	4:00 P.M.	Great Vespers
Sunday	May 30	5th Sunday of Holy Pascha: Sunday of The Samaritan Woman	
		9:40 A.M.	The Hours
		10:00 A.M.	Divine Liturgy
		Coffee Hour Fellowship in The Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy	

As a friendly reminder, **ALL DIVINE SERVICES, WILL ALSO BE LIVE-STREAMED - from Fr. Jason's Facebook page and our Parish Youtube Page so that we can still be together and pray together. So please continue to join us in prayer!! There are three ways you can join us in prayer via Live-Stream even if we do not have a FaceBook account:**

- 1) Go directly to our Parish Website (www.stgeorgebuffalo.com) and on our homepage you will see a video Playbox. When 'live-stream' is active, the live video will automatically appear.
- 2) Go directly to Fr. Jason's Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/jason.vansuch> and there you will see the Live-stream video.
- 3) Go directly to our Parish Youtube Page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCft4AWAX2COrLZExfMjc5KQ> and there you will see the Live-stream video.

HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

Troparion for Resurrection - Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

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

Kontakion for Sunday of The Paralytic - Tone 3

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord, as Thou didst raise up the Paralytic of old, so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; so that being saved I may sing to Thee:// "Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!"

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion for 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 1

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

Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous! Praise befits the just!

ALLELUIA VERSES

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth will I proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

For Thou hast said: "Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens."

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: "Rejoice, O pure Virgin!
Again, I say: Rejoice, thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead." Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on thee.
Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the
Resurrection of thy 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!

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=== Scriptural Readings for the Week ===

Monday	Acts 10:1-16	John 6:56-59
Tuesday	Acts 10:21-33	John 7:1-13
Wednesday	Acts 14:6-18	John 7:14-30
Thursday	Acts 10:34-	John 8:12-20
Friday	Acts 10:44-11:10	John 8:21-30
Saturday	Acts 12:1-11	John 8:31-42
Sunday	Acts 11:19-26,29-30	{Sunday of Samaritan Woman} John 4:5-42

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EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

ACTS 9:32-42

In those Days:

Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them.

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter and she sat up.

Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

JOHN 5:1-15 (Sunday of The Paralytic)

Let us Attend!

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.

In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the movement of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk?'" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

**** NEW PROTOCOLS WHEN ATTENDING THE DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAYS****

☒ **A Parish Council Member will greet everyone at the Front Entrance Doors to the Church. We will have the Sign-Up Sheet there to mark off your name if you signed-up to attend. If we did not sign-up, then we will write your name down and kindly remind you to sign-up before next Sunday. We will also take your temperature as well. If someone has a fever or is experiencing symptoms or answers YES to any of the COVID Questions, they will not be permitted to come into the church.**

☒ **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. Once we reach our capacity of 33 people in The Church, everyone else will be seated in The Parish Fellowship Hall. We must also remember to wear a mask in Church and in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on Church Property at all times and maintain social distancing. 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, we must use the hand sanitizer that is located at the Candle Desk as well as review the posted Diocesan Guidelines. These (masks, prayers, hand sanitizer) are also 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.

☒ **When receiving Holy Communion, a Parish Council Member will call everyone up – pew by pew – to allow for social distancing (the children and Altar Servers will come first, then the first pews up front all the way to the back of the Church with the Choir being the last ones to receive Holy Communion). If any faithful are in The Parish Fellowship Hall, Fr Jason, Fr. Andreja, or Fr. Peter will bring Holy Communion to those in the Hall.**

****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
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- 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
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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 16, 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!**

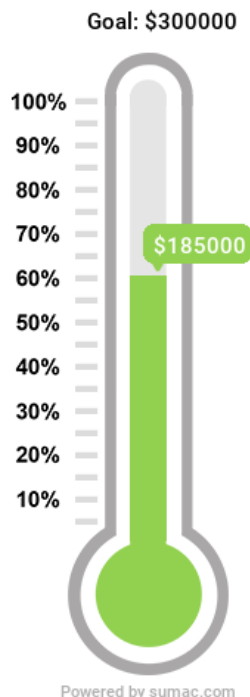
The video can be found here on Facebook:

<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 4th SUNDAY OF HOLY PASCHA:
THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**

AN ORTHODOX COMMENTARY ON THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

According to today's Gospel, four friends brought a paralytic to Jesus Christ for healing. When they saw the packed house they didn't give up in despair. Instead, they went up on the roof, they removed the panels and lowered the paralytic down. Can you imagine the amazement of the crowd in the house seeing the man coming down from the roof? Can you imagine the amazement of Our Lord Jesus Christ seeing the man coming down from the roof and four heads peaking through the roof? The result of this experience was the healing of the paralytic of his physical and spiritual infirmities.

First, we see here a graphic example of faith. We see how faith will literally raise the roof to be in the presence of God in Jesus Christ. The men were not turned back by the jammed doorway. Why? Because of faith. Faith never gives up. Faith perseveres. Faith is inventive. Faith is fertile. Faith is full of ideas. Faith laughs at barriers. If the road is closed one way, faith looks another way.

Second, what we see is that these men made it clear that Christianity is not just a stab in the dark. Christianity is not just trying to be a nice person. True Christianity is a determined and directed effort to establish contact with a person, Jesus Christ. When a person says that "he is not in Church but his heart is with you," he is kidding himself. If his heart is there, his body will be there also. Faith always finds a way to be with Christ

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

On this day the Church remembers the man who lay by the Sheep's Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first one to enter the pool after an angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him.

The fourth Sunday is dedicated to Christ's healing of the **paralytic** (*Jn 5*). The man is healed by Christ while waiting to be put down into the pool of water. Through baptism in the church we, too, are healed and saved by Christ for eternal life. Thus, in the church, we are told, together with the paralytic, to sin no more that nothing worse befall you" (*Jn 5:14*).

The Kontakion for this Fourth Sunday of Pascha asks Christ to raise up our souls, "paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts."

Commentary on The Sunday of The Paralytic

On this Sunday the most wonderful healing of the paralytic by the Sheep's Pool, who for 38 years languished in severe illness is glorified. According to the explanation of the Synaxarion, this miracle is celebrated on this Sunday because Christ did it during the Jewish Pentecost. In the healing of the paralytic the Holy Church sees the paradigm of the renewal of life of all humanity through the resurrection of Christ. "Christ", she sings in the hymns of this day, "the first-born of creation, and the Creator of

all things that have come into being, is risen from the dead as the first-fruits of them that slept. He renewed in Himself the corrupted nature of our race." "On this day is death despoiled and Hades brought to naught. And the race of men is vested in incorruption. We therefore cry to Thee with thanksgiving: glory, O Christ, to Thy arising".

Together with this the Holy Church, reminding us about the paralysis of our souls through sin, calls each of us to appeal: "O Most Gracious One, heal my soul which has been ailing for many years, as Thou healed the paralytic before, that I may follow Thy way, which Thou hast shown to those who love Thee"; "As Thou raised up the paralytic, O Christ, so also make whole my soul which is paralyzed by transgressions, and help me to walk in Thine upright ways". As the miracle remembered now was accomplished by the Savior at the Sheep's Pool, in which for the healing of sufferings, "an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons and troubled the water" in some troparia of the canon he is glorified as the Holy Archistrategus Michael. Praising him as the "chief of angels", "leader" of the "highest ministers", the Holy Church hymns him as the "guide for the erring" and, in view of our spiritual paralysis, prayerfully appeals to him: "pray for our enlightenment", "pacify our life, which is ever troubled by the assaults of the serpent and by the circumstances of an ever unstable life", "with us pray for the deliverance of our sins and correction of our way of life", and "the enjoyment of eternal blessings".

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost

On Wednesday May 13, we celebrate the midpoint of the fifty days between the Feasts of Pascha and Pentecost. St John tells us (John 7:14) that "in the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the Temple, and taught." The Feast in question is the Feast of Tabernacles (celebrated in September), not Pentecost.

The Church has appointed John 7:14-30 to be read for the Midfeast, thereby linking Pascha and Pentecost. In Chapter 8 of St John's Gospel, the Lord came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him. After leaving the Temple, he encounters the man born blind. We will hear about him on the Sunday of the Blind Man.

The Troparion of the Midfeast ("In the middle of the Feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as Thou didst cry to all: If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink [John 7:37]. O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!") hints at the encounter of Christ and the Samaritan Woman in just a few days.

In the middle of this fourth week, the middle day between Easter and Pentecost is solemnly celebrated. It is called the feast of **Mid-Pentecost**, at which Christ, "in the middle of the feast" teaches men of his saving mission and offers to all "the waters of immortality" (*Jn 7:14*). Again we are reminded of the Master's presence and his saving promise: "If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink" (*Jn 7:37*). We think also once again of our death and resurrection with Christ in our baptism, and our reception of the Holy Spirit from him in our chrismation. We "look back to one, and anticipate the other" as one of the hymns of the feast puts it. We know that we belong to that kingdom of

the Risen Christ where "the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
 And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the
 water of life without price" (*Rev 22:17. Is 55:1*).

*In the middle of the feast, O Saviour, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as Thou didst
 cry unto all: If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! O Christ God, Fountain of life, glory to
 Thee! (Troparion).*

*Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the feast of the law: Come and
 drink the water of immortality! We fall before Thee and faithfully cry: Grant us Thy bounties, for Thou
 art the Fountain of our life! (Kontakion)*

THE 2021 PASCHAL GREETINGS OF CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

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GREETING

CHRIST IS RISEN!
 CHRISTOS TENSIOU!
 AL MASEEH QAM!
 CHRISTOS ANESTI!
 CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!
 HRISTOS A INVIAT!
 CRISTO HA RESUCITADO!
 KRISHTI U NGJALL!
 YESU MASIH ZINDA HO GAYA HAI!
 CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!
 CHRYSTOS UVASKROS!
 KRISTE AGHSDGA!
 CHRISTOS VOSKRES!
 LE CHRIST EST RESURRECTE!
 HA-MESHIHA QOM!
 HARISUTOSU FUKKATSU!
 CHRISTUS IST AUFERSTANDEN!
 KRISTO ZMARTWYCKWSTAL!
 YINQA HRLYSTOS!
 KRISTO AMEFUFUKKA!
 KRISTO GESSO!
 CRISTO E' RISORTO!

RESPONSE

INDEED HE IS RISEN! (*English*)
 BAHAKE TENSIOU! (*Eritrean*)
 HAQQAN QAM! (*Arabic*)
 ALITHOS ANESTI! (*Greek*)
 VOISTINU VOSKRESE! (*Russian*)
 ADEVARAT A INVIAT! (*Romanian*)
 EN VERDAD, HA RESUCITADO! (*Spanish*)
 VERTET U NGJALL! (*Albanian*)
 HAANYAQEENAN WOZINDA HO GAYA HAI! (*Urdu*)
 VOISTINA VOSKRESE! (*Bulgarian*)
 SAPRAUDY UVASKROS! (*Belarussian*)
 CHESMARITAD AGHSDGA! (*Georgian*)
 VOISTINI VOSKRES! (*Ukrainian*)
 EN VERITE, ILEST RESURRECTE! (*French*)
 BE-EMET QOM! (*Hebrew*)
 JITSU NI FUKKATSU! (*Japanese*)
 WAHRHAFT AUFERSTANDEN! (*German*)
 ZAPRAWDE ZMARTWYCKWSTAL! (*Polish*)
 YINQA BEJ! (*Klingon*)
 KWELI AMEFUFUKKA! (*Swahili*)
 BUHAR HA SHO NAY! (*Korean*)
 VERAMENTE E' RISORTO! (*Italian*)

UKRISTU UVUKILE!
KRISTUS ER OPSTANDEN!

UVUKILE KUPHELA! (*Zulu*)
SANDELIG HAN ER OPSTANDEN! (*Danish*)

Thought for the Day on The Sunday of The Paralytic:

CHRIST -- THE PHYSICIAN OF OUR SOULS

From the Gospel of John 5:1-15 During a feast day, Jesus went to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem there was a pool called Bethesda. In those days, an angel went at certain times into the pool and stirred the water. Then whoever stepped in first was made well. Many sick persons went there who were blind, lame, or paralyzed. There was a man there who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been in that condition for a long time. He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The man answered, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I try to come, someone always gets in before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, he walked and carried his bed. (At that time in history most beds were like a folding cot.) That day was the Sabbath, so the Jews said to the man, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." (People were not allowed to do any kind of work on the Sabbath.) He answered, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" Then they asked him, "Who said that to you?" But he did not know who it was, because Jesus had already left that place. Afterward Jesus found the man in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, or a worse thing might happen to you." The man left and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Finding Copper Pennies

There was a small boy who when walking down the street one day found a bright copper penny. He was so excited that he found money and it didn't cost him anything. This experience led him to spend the rest of his days walking with his head down, eyes wide open, looking for wealth.

During his lifetime he found 1,296,000,000 pennies, 480 nickels, 1900 dimes, 16,000 quarters, 200 half dollars and thousands of crinkled dollar bills. He accumulated quite a bank account in his lifetime. He prided himself in the fact that he spent his life getting his fortune from nothing.

Yes, the boy now old man, spent his life collecting money for nothing. Except that in his lifetime he missed the breathless beauty of 31,369 sunsets, the colorful splendor of 157 rainbows, the fiery beauty of hundreds of maples nipped by autumn's frost. He never saw the thousands of white clouds drifting across blue skies, shifting into various wondrous formations. Birds flying, sun shining, and the smiles of a hundreds of thousands people that passed through his life. All of this is not a part of his memory. Nor did this man-boy have any time to build a successful family or circle of true friends. No one cried for him when he passed on, in fact, many were glad to see him leave this world.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We are like stained-glass windows.

We sparkle and shine when the sun is out,

but when the darkness sets in,

our true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.