

## Come and See how we are all called to be Stewards of The Church!

- Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.
- Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.
- Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.
- Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I Believe . . . ", as proof of that belief.
- Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

If you would like to make a donation to our parish, please feel free to use the QR Code or link to our parish website donation page below. Thank you for your continued support and generosity for our parish in bringing The Love and Faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ to all! May God continue to bless and guide you and keep all of you in His loving care today and always!



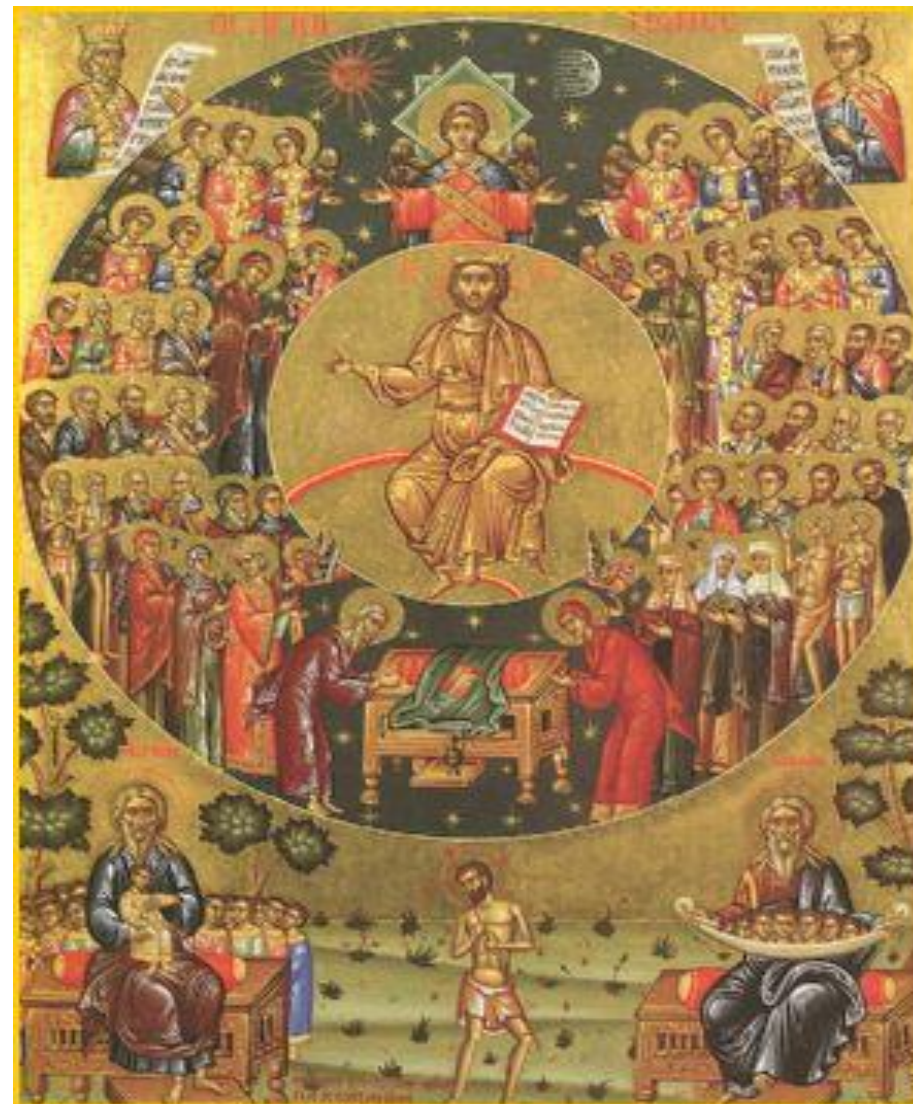
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**St. George Orthodox Church**  
**2 Nottingham Terrace - Buffalo, NY 14216**  
**(716) 875-4222**

[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**

**V. Rev. Jason Vansuch, Parish Priest**

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

**Cell Phone: 609-851-3811 Email: [jvansuch@hotmail.com](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com)**

Archpriest Andreja Damjanovski, Attached Rev. Peter Irfan, Attached  
Mat. Katia Vansuch, Choir Director

Dr. Boris Kuvshinoff, Parish Council President

Home: 716-812-6132 Email: [boris.kuvshinoff@gmail.com](mailto:boris.kuvshinoff@gmail.com)

**1st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. Holy Apostle Jude, the brother of the Lord** (ca. 80). **All Saints.** Ven. Barlaam of Shenkursk (1462). Martyr Zosimas the soldier at Antioch in Pisidia (2nd c.). Ven. Paisius the Great (5th c.). St. John the Solitary of Jerusalem (6th c.). Ven. Paisius of Chilandari (Bulgarian—18th c.). Repose of St. Job, Patriarch of Moscow and all Rus

**EPISTLE:** Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom **GOSPEL:**  
Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

**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 Orthodox Church!

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**Altar Vigil 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 JUNE 19, 2022**

**THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS FATHER'S DAY**

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

Brief Memorial Litia for all departed Fathers,  
Grandfathers, Uncles, and Men of our Parish and Families

Annual Father's Day Luncheon in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy

### **SS PETER AND PAUL FAST**

#### **MONDAY JUNE 20 to WEDNESDAY JUNE 29**

During the Ss Peter and Paul Fast, The Church prescribes that we fast from meat and dairy products as part of our spiritual preparation for The Feast of The Holy Leaders of The Apostles – Ss Peter and Paul on June 29. If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding one's preparations with fasting, please see or contact Fr. Jason. May God bless and keep all of you and have a blessed and prayerful Ss Peter and Paul Fast.

### **TUESDAY JUNE 21, 2022**

Paraklesis Service to The Theotokos – **6:00 PM** Bible Study Class (via Zoom) **6:30 PM**

### **THURSDAY JUNE 23, 2022**

**EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Akathist Service to Our Lord – **9:00 AM** Great Vespers with Litiya – **6:00 PM**

### **FRIDAY JUNE 24, 2022**

**THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Divine Liturgy – **9:30 AM**

### **SATURDAY JUNE 25, 2022**

Great Vespers – **4:00 PM**

### **SUNDAY JUNE 26, 2022**

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

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

Memorial Litia for Linda Mucyn's Mother – Helen – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Coffee Hour Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy

**\*\*PLEASE REFER TO THE WEEKLY EMAILS AND PARISH WEBSITE  
FOR CHANGES TO THE CALENDAR!\*\***

## **HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY**

### **Troparion for Resurrection – Tone 8**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our  
sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

### **Troparion for Feast of All Saints — Tone 4**

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been  
adorned with Thy martyr's blood shed through- out all the  
world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God: "Send down Thy bounties  
on Thy people,// grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy  
to our souls!"

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and  
ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### **Kontakion for Feast of All Saints – Tone 6**

The universe offers Thee the God-bearing Martyrs as the first  
fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator. By their prayers keep Thy  
Church, Thy habitation, in abiding peace// through the  
Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

### **PROKEMEINON Tone 8**

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

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

### **ALLELUIA VERSES**

*The righteous cried and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their  
troubles.*

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the Lord will deliver them out of  
them all.*

## **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!

### **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 received 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.

## GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

**Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30**

### Let us Attend!

Therefore whoever confesses Me before me, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"

So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the Throne of His Glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters of father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

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### === Scriptural Readings for the Week ===

<b>Monday</b>	Romans 2:28-3:18	Matt. 6:31-34;7:9-11
<b>Tuesday</b>	Romans 4:4-12	Matt. 7:15-21
<b>Wednesday</b>	Romans 4:13-25	Matt. 7:21-23
<b>Thursday</b>	Romans 5:10-16	Matt. 8:23-27
<b>Friday</b>	Romans 5:17-6:2	Matt. 9:14-17
<b>Saturday</b>	Romans 3:19-26	Matt. 7:1-8
<b>Sunday</b>	Romans 2:10-16	Matt. 4:18-23
	Hebrews 11:33-12:2	Matt. 4:25-5:12

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## 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.

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**\*\*General Confession will be served on**

**Sunday JUNE 26 and JULY 10 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 until  
SEPTEMBER 4 )! DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAYS WILL BE CELEBRATED  
AT 9:30 AM DURING THESE MONTHS!\*\***  
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**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!**

**\* \* \* \* \* PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE \* \* \* \* \***

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

**HIERARCHS**

Metropolitan HERMAN      Archbishop BENJAMIN      Archbishop ALEJO  
Archbishop NATHANIEL      Bishop DANIEL

**CLERGY**

Archpriest Herman, Matushka Cynthia and Family      Archpriest Leonid      Archpriest David  
Archpriest Alexey and his family      Archpriest Vladimir and Matushka Jeanne  
Archpriest Timothy/Mat. Michelle      Presbyter John and Presbyter Nancy  
Archpriest Ken and Matushka Natalie      Presbyter Andreja, Popadija Anica and Family  
Archpriest Timothy      Priest Peter and Mat. Mary  
Dn. Sean and Mat. Heather      Archpriest John (Onofrey)  
Priest Mykola and those with him

**MATUSHKI**

Mat. Katia      Mat. Paraskeva      Mat. Joanna      Popadia Vicki      Mat. Patricia      Mat. Gloria  
Catherine      Ivan/Marina/Inna      Bonnie/Silviu      Coard Karen      Aliscia      Walter/Paul  
Edwina      Irene      Luba      Jim, Darren, Marsha      Frank      June  
Serena/Asma      Lillian      Reader Victor      Nicholas, Andrew      Marilyn      Amanda  
Sarah      Albert      Boris      Oscar      Ronald, Candice  
Xenia, Justin, Danielle, John      Larry Joseph      Frank      Billy      Clyde  
Victor      Catherine      Susan      Svetlana      Juliana      Evelyn  
Robert      Rebecca      Paul      Brian      Jeanne      Angela, Jason, Michelle      Linda  
Justin      Olga      John, Helen      Ashley      Steven      Lia/Isaiah  
Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria      Barbara      Susan      Mary      John  
Melody      Lee      Lee, Bridget      Matthew      William  
Kelly, Robert, Boris, Zaeb, Tirza, Sabas      Sada      Thisinita, Gemmal, Geesa, and Patric  
Olga and Eugene      Jeremy Stewart  
Susan      Justin      Louis      Yuri/Elena      Alex      John, Kevin, Sean      Anthony  
Jaime/Sammy, Juliana      Harry      James  
Lee, Benjamin, Harry Patrick      Emma/Alexander      Elias, John, Joseph, Nadim, Theresa  
Aspasia/Stavros      Charles      Seraphim      Aldona  
Vadym      Iryna      Yuriy      Anastasia      Rosemary      Anthony  
Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber, Judithann      Anita, Jeffry, Dominic, Douglas, Rachel, Dennis  
Amelia, Emily  
Brian      John, Roberta, Barbara      John, Michael      John Ron, Illiana, Jillian, Joel  
George      Costa      Jonathan, Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo, Clara, Karl, Dragica, Mary  
Stephen, Larry, Olga, Olga, Sally, Deborah, David  
Rdr      Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga, Alexandra, Barbara, Damian,  
Joseph

Children of God – Harry, Keely, Isla, Talia, Lane, Liam  
Corina and Nicole and the children to be born of them

**Diocese of NY&NJ Prayer List**

Archpriest Samuel      Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar      Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Mat. Myra  
Archpriest George      Archpriest Paul  
Archpriest Jonathan      Archpriest Paul

**Those Serving in The Armed Forces**

Kenneth, Nadine, Jason, Robert, Andrew, Justin, Shawn,  
Austin, Chris, John, Daniel, Gjorgie, Thomas

**Catechumens**

Juanita Martha, Selathiel,



**For All of our Parishioners and their families, the communicants of this holy house, those who pray here, our loved ones and their families and for those who are praying with us today and all of those whom we have in our hearts and minds**

**For All of our parishioners who are in hospitals, nursing home, and those who are homebound.**

**For All of the ill-afflicted of our parishes and families especially those affected with the Coronavirus and other ailments and for their continued full recovery and good health**

**For All of our doctors, nurses, physicians, and medical professionals**

**For our Nation that The Lord our God will continue to bless us and guide and teach us to love another, pray for one another and forgive one another.**

**For All of those who are travelling and for their safe journey and return to their homes**

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**FOR THY DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD:**

For all of those who tragically lost their lives to the Coronavirus and other ailments of the clergy and parishioners of This Holy House who have departed this life, who now lie asleep in the Lord

Metropolitan THEODOSIUS  
Ever-Memorable Archpriest Eugene  
Ever-Memorable Priest John  
Ever-Memorable Archpriest Rastko  
Ever-Memorable Dn. Mark

Ever-Memorable Archpriest Bernard  
Ever-Memorable Archpriest George  
Ever-Memorable Archpriest George  
Matushka Dorothy  
Khouria Grace

Priest Leonid Gregory, Priest Peter, Archpriest Kirill, Dn. Michael, John Robert, Sister Thomas, Frank, Jenny, Charles, Florence, Michael Stevens, William, George, Marion

Ever-Memorable Pdn Gregory

Ever-Memorable Sbdn Gregory

Martha, Akhtar, Barkat, Rehmat

**Newly-Departed Servants of God**

Archbishop PAUL Met. Hilarion  
Mat. Gerry

Tita Damasus (*Abraham*)

**\*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.**

**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.

**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**

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.

Some of the items on the leaves are as follows:

- Candles
- 7-Day Vigil Candles
- Flowers for Feast Days
- Charcoal
- Altar Wine
- Cups for Zapifka
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

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!

## **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 (2022)**

Mr. Anthony Dipiano  
305 North Street  
Apt. 77  
Buffalo, N

Reader Victor Shanchuk  
McAuley Residence  
1503 Military Rd.  
Buffalo, NY 14217  
716.881.3096

Mrs. Luba Japadjief  
Elderwood Nursing Home  
104 Old Niagara Rd.  
Lockport, NY 14221 (Room 47A)

Mrs. Bonnie Dan  
15 Pine Street  
North Tonawanda, NY 14150  
716.693.1377

Mr. Albert Fadell  
317.376.2562

Andrew Wityk  
Ellicott Center  
200 Seventh Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201

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**\*\*General Confession will be served on Sunday June 26 at 9:00 AM.\*\***

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## **ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OCMC PARISH AMBASSADORS**

To The Glory of God, our parish has been blessed with two parishioners who have answered The Call of Our Lord to be Parish Ambassadors for OCMC guiding us to help bring The Gospel of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ of "Making Disciples of All Nations baptizing them in The Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit!"

Anthony Gregory DelNuovo and John Moses Lutz are our Parish Ambassadors for OCMC (The Orthodox Christian Mission Center). To help the good work being done by The OCMC of supporting Missionaries around the world, our parish will be sponsoring and supporting a missionary on an annual basis. The cost is only \$600/year. So far we have collected over \$1000 for this year's sponsorship. If anyone would like to make a donation, please see or contact Anthony or John. We express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who has graciously donated so far. Thank you for kindness and generosity in supporting the good work and mission of The OCMC in fulfilling Our Lord's Command in The Gospel of Matthew of: "Making Disciples of All Nations!"

For more information about The OCMC, please visit their website:  
[www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)

Another blessing for our parish of continuing the Good Work that has been entrusted to us of bringing The Gospel Message to All!  
Lord it is good to be here!

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**\*\*PLEASE REFER TO THE PARISH WEBSITE AND WEEKLY EMAILS  
FOR THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS  
FOR THE LITURGICAL YEAR!\*\***

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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!**

## **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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## **IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission, Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace, Resurrection Life Food Pantry, Baker Victory as well as 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**
- 2) **Zoom information for Education Classes and Book Club**
- 3) **Updates on Schedule of Services Events**
- 4) **Pastoral Video for Parish Monthly Update**

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**EACH WEEK WE WILL BE RECORDING THE WEEKLY INCOME FOR EACH SUNDAY AS WELL AS POSTING THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS AND MINUTES FOR OUR PARISH FOLLOWING THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS!**

**INCOME FOR SUNDAY MARCH 20, 2022 - \$**

**Commercial Savings Account Deposit \$**

**DONATION TO THE CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT FUND (Kitchen) – \$750.00**

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

**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 REMINDER FOR HOSTING COFFEE HOUR \*\***

When hosting coffee hour, please check the refrigerators in the Parish Fellowship Hall the week before we are hosting to see what supplies we will/may need.

We will also be using real coffee cups for coffee hour. If anyone needs assistance with cleaning them following Coffee Hour, please see or contact Mat. Katia.

If anyone would like to host coffee hour or has any questions regarding one's preparations for Coffee Hour, please see or contact Mat. Fran ([610.698.1666/frances.vansuch@yahoo.com](mailto:610.698.1666/frances.vansuch@yahoo.com))

May all of us have a Blessed, Joyous, Holy and Prayerful Summer Season!

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**FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME In The Orthodox Christian Church**

Saturday Great Vespers 4:00 PM  
SUNDAY Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM (Sept-May)  
9:30 AM (May-September)  
~ All are Welcome ~

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 or needs and help or assistance, please contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch (jvansuch@hotmail.com) or 716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.

## 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:)

## ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH WEEKLY EDUCATION CORNER

### THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

St Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories. The list of St Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs

of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith.

St Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death. Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and

unproductive, St John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31).

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Sts Joachim and Anna, St Joseph the Betrothed, St Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of St Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

# First Sunday after Pentecost

## Whosoever Shall Confess Me Before Men

### Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

From The Explanation of the Gospel of St. Matthew

by Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

**Ch. 10:32-33. Whosoever therefore shall confess in Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father Who is in heaven.**

He exhorts them to bear witness even unto martyrdom. For belief only within one's soul does not suffice; He desires also the belief confessed with the tongue. He did not say, "Whosoever shall confess Me," but in me, that is, in My strength. For he who confesses does so aided by the grace which is from above. But as for him who denies, Christ did not say "in Me," but whosoever shall deny Me, showing that he denies because he does not have the aid from above. Therefore everyone who confesses that Christ is God will find Christ giving confession of him to the Father, that he is a true servant. But those who deny will hear the words, "I do not know you."

**37. He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.**

Do you see when it is that we must hate our parents and children? When they want us to love them more than Christ. And why should I speak of father, mother, and children? Hear what is even greater than this:

**38. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me.**

Whoever, He says, does not renounce this present life and give himself over to shameful death, for this is what the cross signified to the ancients, is not worthy of Me. But since there are many who are crucified, such as robbers and thieves, He added, and followeth after Me, that is, live according to My laws.

**Ch. 19:27. Then answered Peter and said unto Him, Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?**

Even though it seems that Peter had not forsaken very much, as he was poor, understand that in actuality he, too, forsook much. For the fewer possessions we have, the greater the attachment. But Peter also rejected every worldly pleasure, even natural affection for his parents. For these passions war against the poor as well as the rich (1) What then does the Lord answer?

**28. And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit on the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

Surely they will not be seated? Of course not, but He indicated by means of a throne the great honor they will enjoy. Will Judas also be seated? No; for Christ said, which have followed Me, that is, "followed Me to the end," but Judas did not follow to the end. By a different interpretation, God often promises good things to those who are worthy. But if they should change and become unworthy, as Judas did, those good things are denied. Similarly with more menacing things, He often threatens but does not carry out the threat, because we have repented. By regeneration understand the resurrection of the dead at the Last Judgement.

**29. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.**

So that no one would think that what was said applied only to the disciples, Christ broadened the promise to include everyone who does likewise. They will have, instead of family of the flesh, intimacy and brotherhood with God;

instead of lands, Paradise; instead of houses of stone, the heavenly Jerusalem; instead of a mother, the venerable mothers in the Church; instead of a father, the priests; instead of a wife, all the faithful women, not in marriage—far from it!—but in affection and spiritual relation and compassionate care for them. The Lord does not bid us simply to separate from our families, but only when they impede our piety. In the same

manner, He bids us to despise even our own life and body, but not with the result that we slay ourselves. See how good God is: He not only gives us these good things, but adds to them eternal life. You, then, O reader, hasten to sell your possessions and give to the poor. Possessions are, to the wrathful man, his anger; to the fornicator, his disposition for debauchery; to the resentful, his remembrance of wrongs. Sell these things and give them to the poor demons who are in want of every good thing. Return the passions to the creators of the passions, and then you will have treasure, which is Christ, in your heaven, that is, in your mind which has been exalted above this world. For he who becomes like the heavenly One has heaven within himself.

**30. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.**

Christ is suggesting here the Jews and the Gentiles. For the Jews, who were first, became last, while the Gentiles, who were last, were put first.

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#### **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.

## **The Fast and the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul**



*By Bishop Thomas Joseph and Peter Schweitzer (Antiochian Archdiocese)*

Having celebrated the feast of feasts, the Lord's Pascha, and Pentecost fifty days thereafter, we are about to embark upon the Apostles' Fast, which this year begins on June 12, 2017, and ends with the commemoration of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul on June 29.

The Apostles' Fast is a prescribed fasting period of the Church, lasting from the day after the Sunday of All Saints to the 29th of June, the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul.

It is a sad truth that many neglect this particular fast for a variety of reasons inconsistent with the apostolic and patristic tradition. Prior to reflecting upon the importance of the Apostles' Fast, a review of the ancient history of this particular fast may help us to recognize its integral place in the life of each and every Orthodox Christian.

The fast of the holy Apostles is very ancient, dating back to the first centuries of Christianity. We have the testimony of St. Athanasius the Great, St. Ambrose of Milan, St. Leo the Great and Theodoret of Cyrrhus regarding it. The oldest testimony regarding the Apostles' Fast is given to us by St. Athanasius the Great (†373).

In her Diary, the pilgrim Egeria (fourth century) records that on the day following the feast of Pentecost a period of fasting began. The Apostolic Constitutions, a work composed no later than the fourth century, prescribes: "After the feast of Pentecost, celebrate one week, then observe a fast, for justice demands rejoicing after the reception of the gifts of God and lasting after the body has been refreshed."



From the testimonies of the fourth century we ascertain that in Alexandria, Jerusalem, and Antioch the fast of the holy Apostles was connected with Pentecost and not with the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul on June 29. In the first centuries, after Pentecost there was one week of rejoicing, that is a fast-free week, followed by about one week of fasting.

The canons of Nicephoros, Patriarch of Constantinople (806-816), mention the Apostle's Fast. The Typicon of St. Theodore the Studite for the Monastery of Studios in Constantinople speaks of the Forty Days Fast of the holy Apostles. St. Symeon of Thessalonica (+1429) explains the purpose of this fast in this manner: "The Fast of the Apostles is justly established in their honor, for through them we have received numerous benefits and for us they are exemplars and teachers of the fast ... For one week after the descent of the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution composed by Clement, we celebrate, and then during the following week, we fast in honor of the Apostles."

The spiritual benefit derived from the Apostles' Fast is great. Saint Leo the Great noted that, "After the extended feast of Pentecost, the fast is particularly needed in order to cleanse our mind by ascetic labors, and to make us worthy of the gifts of the Holy Spirit." Saint Leo also reminds us, "In the Apostolic canons inspired by God Himself, the Church fathers have, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, established first and foremost that all virtuous labors begin with fasting."

Periods of fasting such as the one upon which we are about to embark are not, as some in the West would have us believe, exercises in mortification or penance but the divinely inspired method to gain mastery over the self and conquer the passions of the flesh. It is to liberate oneself from dependence on the things of this world in order to concentrate on the things of the Kingdom of God. It is to give power to the soul so that it would not yield to temptation and sin. According to St. Seraphim of Sarov, fasting is an "indispensable means" of gaining the fruit of the Holy Spirit in one's life (cf. Conversation with Motovilov), and Jesus Himself taught that some forms of evil cannot be conquered without it (Matthew 17:21, Mark 9:29)

Neglecting the fast is not the only pitfall to be avoided however. Those who fast may be tempted to judge those who do not fast, thus losing the efficacy of their labors. We should not concern ourselves with what others are doing but concentrate on our own spiritual life.

Fasting periods, particularly the Apostles' Fast, assist us in avoiding the spiritual pitfalls to which we are so accustomed after the ascetical struggle of Great Lent and the joyous celebration of Pascha.

In turning our attention to the feast of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, the connection between the feast of Pentecost, the Apostles' Fast, and the actual feast of the two preeminent apostles becomes clearer. As I noted earlier, this fast was originally connected to the feast of Pentecost and we understand this connection by examining the feast itself. As Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos writes,

Pentecost had a significant place in the life of the Apostles. Having previously passed through purification of the heart and illumination – something that also existed in the Old Testament in the Prophets and the righteous – they then saw the Risen Christ, and on the day of Pentecost they became members of the risen Body of Christ. This is particularly important because every Apostle had to have the Risen Christ within Him. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit made the Disciples members of the theanthropic Body of Christ. Whereas at the Transfiguration the Light acted from within the three Disciples, through glorification, but the Body of Christ was outside them, at Pentecost the Disciples are united with Christ. They become members of the theanthropic Body and as members of the Body of Christ they share in the uncreated Light. This difference also exists between the Old Testament and Pentecost. . . In addition, on the day of Pentecost, the Disciples attained to "all truth". Before His Passion, Christ told His Disciples: "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:12-13).

These words of Christ are closely linked with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, with the revelation of the whole truth, which the Disciples were unable to bear; they could not receive it earlier, without the Holy Spirit.

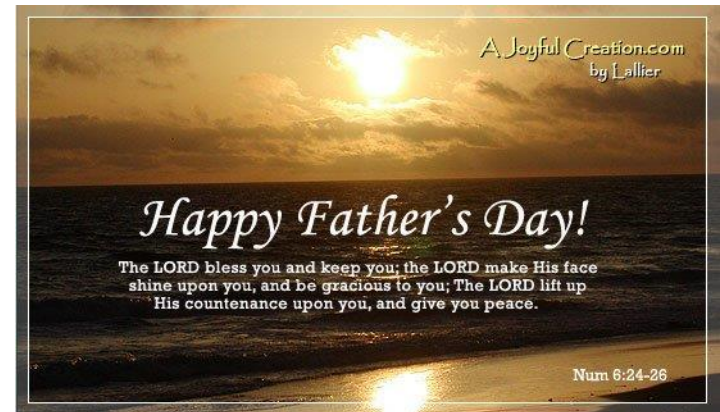
This "all truth" revealed on the day of Pentecost to the Apostles is the truth of the Church as the Body of Christ: that the Disciples will become members of this risen Body and that in the Church they will know the mysteries of the glory and rule (*vasileia*) of God in the flesh of Christ. On the day of Pentecost they knew the whole truth. It follows that the complete truth does not exist outside the Church. The Church has the truth, because it is the Body of Christ and a community of glorification. As the foremost of the holy apostles, it is fitting that after the feast of Pentecost, wherein the apostles received the revelation of truth in its fullness, we commemorate Saints Peter and Paul jointly. As Saint Gregory Palamas writes in his sermon on the occasion of the saints' feast,

If, as we have said, we commemorate each of the saints with hymns and appropriate songs of praise, how much more should we celebrate the

memory of Peter and Paul, the supreme Leaders of the pre-eminent company of the Apostles? They are the fathers and guides of all Christians: Apostles, martyrs, holy ascetics, priests, hierarchs, pastors and teachers. As chief shepherds and master builders of our common godliness and virtue, they tend and teach us all, like lights in the world, holding forth the word of life (Phil. 2:15-16). Their brightness excels that of the other radiantly pious and virtuous saints as the sun outshines the stars, or as the heavens, which declare the sublime glory of God (cf. Ps. 19:1), transcend the skies. In their order and strength they are greater than the heavens, more beautiful than the stars, and swifter than both, and as regards what lies beyond the realm of the senses, it is they who reveal things which surpass the very heavens themselves and indeed the whole universe, and who make them bright with the light in which there is no variableness neither shadow of turning (cf. Jas. 1:17). Not only do they bring people out of darkness into this wonderful light, but by enlightening them they make them light, the offspring of the perfect light, that each of them may shine like the sun (Matt. 13:43), when the Author of light, the God-man and Word, appears in glory. On the day of Pentecost, the apostles received the fullness of the revelation of truth because the Lord Christ had prepared them for the advent of the Comforter. As the preeminent apostles, Saints Peter and Paul were the guardians of that truth which was to be passed on to the faithful. Saint Seraphim of Sarov tells us, “The true aim of our Christian life consists of the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God. As for fasts, and vigils, and prayer, and almsgiving, and every good deed done for Christ's sake, are the only means of acquiring the Holy Spirit of God.”

We know from Holy Scripture and Tradition that the Holy Spirit does not abide in a vessel that is not being purified. Saint Luke of Crimea notes, “For could the Holy Spirit possibly abide in an impure heart that is filled with sin? As smoke chases away the bees, as stench repels all people, so does the stench of the human heart repel the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives only in pure hearts, and only to them does he grant He Divine grace, His holy gifts, for He is the ‘Treasury of good things’—all the true and most precious goods that the human heart could possibly possess. Could the impure heart receive them? Could the heart that is sinful and deprived of mercy and love possibly receive the grace of the Holy Spirit?”

This is precisely why, in her wisdom, the holy Church offers us the period of the Apostles' Fast soon after Pentecost and just prior to the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul who were worthy to receive the Holy Spirit. If the aim of the Christian life is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit, we must engage in the struggle through fasting and continual prayer. It is only then that we may acquire the Holy Spirit and can properly appreciate and be joyous in the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.



## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

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“My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me.”

**Fathers Day Quote by: Jim Valvano**

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“He who is taught to live upon little owes more to his father's wisdom than he who has a great deal left him does to his father's care.”

**Fathers Day Quote by: William Penn**

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**What Makes a Dad**

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad

**Author Unknown**

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**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**

**TO ALL OF OUR FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS,  
GODFATHERS, UNCLES, MEN OF OUR PARISH AND FAMILIES**

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We express our sincere love, prayers, thoughts, and prayerful best wishes to all of our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, godfathers, and men of our parish and families as we honor them on This Father's Day.

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May GOD continue to bless and guide all of our fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles and men of our parish and families with many more blessed years of good health and happiness.

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May GOD continue to grant rest eternal and blessed repose to Thy Servants, all of our fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles and men of our parish and families as we remember them on This Father's Day and may their memories be eternal!