



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

www.stgeorgebuffalo.com

NO. 514 JUNE 18, 2023 _____ JUNE 18, 2023 NO. 514

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

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

2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. All Saints of America (All Saints of Russia). Martyr Leontius, and with him Martyrs Hypatius and Theodulus, at Tripoli in Syria (70-79). Ven. Leonty, Canonarch, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—14th c.). Ven. Leonty the Hagiorite (1605). “Bogolyubov” Icon of the Mother of God

EPISTLE: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Hebrews 11:33-12:2
Romans 2:10-16

GOSPEL:
Matthew 4:25-5:12
Matthew 4:18-23

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!

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

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.

HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

Troparion for Resurrection - Tone 1

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

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

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

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

Kontakion for Resurrection - Tone 1

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

Now and Ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion for Feast of All Saints of North America - Tone 3

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

PROKEMEINON Tone 1

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

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

ALLELUIA VERSES

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

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

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

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

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

COMMUNION HYMN

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

EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

Hebrews 11:33-12:2

BRETHREN:

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

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

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

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

ROMANS 2:10-16

BETHREN:

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

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

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

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

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

Matthew 4:18-23

Let us Attend!

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

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

MATTHEW 4:25-5:12

LET US ATTEND:

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

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

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

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

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=== Scriptural Readings for the Week ===

Monday	Romans 7:1-13	Matt. 9:36-10:8
Tuesday	Romans 7:14-8:2	Matt. 10:9-15
Wednesday	Romans 8:2-13	Matt. 10:16-22
Thursday	Romans 8:22-27	Matt. 10:23-31
Friday	Romans 9:6-19	Matt. 10:32-36;11:1
Saturday	Romans 3:28-4:3	Matt. 7:24-8:4
Sunday	Romans 5:1-10	Matt. 6:22-33

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THE 2023 SCHOOL BACKPACK/SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Once again we will be holding our Annual Backpack/School Supply Drive for The Salvation Army spearheaded by The Church School. This is a wonderful project of preparing backpacks for the children at Salvation Army for the upcoming school year.

With that in mind, please refer to The Annual Backpack/School Supply Drive for Salvation Army Flyer in the parish emails as well as hanging on the bulletin board in the Parish Fellowship Hall which contains all of the information needed for our Backpack Collection Drive. The Drive will run from June 25 through July 30!

As this is our seventh year, we look to this great idea and wonderful opportunity as a chance for us to get more involved within the community by giving back and helping these dear children prepare for the upcoming school year by providing for them those school supplies and materials that they will need to succeed in their studies.

For more information or any questions, please contact Andrea: 585-576-4287 or ajchmiel@gmail.com.

****OUR GOAL IS TO COLLECT and
DONATE AT LEAST 25 BACKPACKS!****

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH (Buffalo, NY) PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRIES

To the Glory of God, every year our beloved parish family answers The Call of Our Lord of ministering to those in need by fulfilling The Gospel of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ with participating in 5 on-going Parish Outreach Ministries within the local Buffalo Area on an on-going basis and especially during the Nativity Season.

Every year, we look forward to another wonderful blessed Nativity Season of bringing the joy, the love, and the peace of The Nativity of Our Lord to everyone especially through the following the outreach ministries:

Hearts for The Homeless – which is a mobile soup kitchen/thrift shop that feeds the poor and chronic homeless on the street. Characterized by a profound spiritual motivation. The program offers nourishing food, as well as clothing, pertinent information regarding area services, companionship and hope for the future.

- Each Month we collect a different canned good/non-perishable food item along with hygiene products and drop them off at the Hearts for The Homeless Distribution Center

Buffalo City Mission – exists to meet the spiritual and practical needs of the poor through the demonstration of the love and preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in providing love, care, shelter, food, and other means necessary to those in need.

- Each Month we collect hygiene products, clothing for men, women, and children and drop them off at the Buffalo City Mission Distribution Center

HomeSpace – is a local community organization ministering to local teens and pre-teen moms which provides comprehensive care to 14-21 yr old moms (providing those essential items necessary for caring for their children: diapers, wipes, baby food, clothing (infants through 7/8 years old). HomeSpace Corporation supports at-risk young women to achieve independence two generations at a time.

- Each Month we collect hygiene products, clothing for young women and children along with those essential items necessary for caring for their children: diapers, wipes, baby food, clothing (infants through 7/8 years old) and drop them off at the HomeSpace Distribution Center

Mats for Mission/Resurrection Life Food Pantry – A Local Organization assisting with providing rest mats made out of plastic bags for the less fortunate as well as providing food and other means necessary to those in need.

- Each Month we collect plastic bags as well as canned goods and non-perishable food items and drop them off at the Resurrection Life Food Pantry Distribution Center.
- Beginning in January 2023, our church school children will be volunteering here on a regular basis assisting with collecting and sorting out Food Bags for those in need.

Baker Victory – A Local Organization dedicated to fostering the highest possible quality of life and personal achievement by partnering with children, adults, their families and the WNY community through a diverse array of social, health and human services.

- Twice a year we collect gifts and other essential items necessary for the children and drop them off at the Baker Victory Distribution Center.

****We also support Compass Care Pro-Life Agency on a regular basis!**

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 MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND GUIDE YOU
 FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!
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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) |
| Mr. Albert Fadell
317.376.2562 | Nicholas Wityk
65 South Main Street
South Oakfield NY | |
| Andrew Wityk
Ellicott Center
200 Seventh Street
Buffalo, NY 14201 | | |

**** NEW COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR 2023 IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL!
 BE SURE TO SIGN UP TO HOST A COFFEE HOUR! PLEASE JOIN US EVERY
 SUNDAY IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY
 FOR SOME CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER!****

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****PLEASE REFER TO THE WEEKLY EMAILS AND PARISH WEBSITE
 FOR CHANGES TO THE CALENDAR!****
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THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY JUNE 18, 2023

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

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

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

TUESDAY JUNE 20, 2023

Daily Matins – **9:00 AM**

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21, 2023

Paraklesis Service to The Theotokos – **6:00 PM**

THURSDAY JUNE 22, 2023

Akathist Service to Our Lord – **9:00 AM**

FRIDAY JUNE 23, 2023

Eve of The Feast of The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Great Vespers – **6:00 PM**

SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2023

The Feast of The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Divine Liturgy – **9:00 AM** Great Vespers – **4:00 PM**

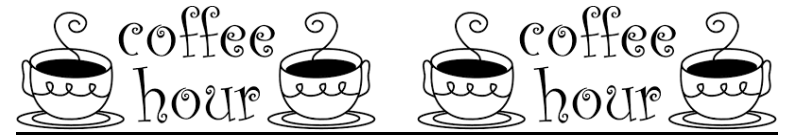
Parish Council Meeting – **5:30 PM**

SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2023

General Confession – **9:10 AM** Divine Liturgy– **9:30 AM**

Coffee Hour Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall
following Divine Liturgy!

Special Parish Presentation on Capital Campaign Project
and Update on Parish Life



If anyone has any questions about fasting or restrictions when hosting coffee hour, please see Fr. Jason and he will help you and guide you!

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 or using the dishwasher following Coffee Hour, please see or contact Mat. Katia.

**If there is no host for coffee hour,
then we will not have coffee hour on that particular Sunday.**

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:frances.vansuch@yahoo.com))

****We have 12 available Sundays in 2023!****



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

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.

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!



St George Orthodox Churc...
@StGeorgeOrthodoxChurch



venmo

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https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=E5X6YTVC9DF3W

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Please remember in prayer Thy Servants of God...

FOR THE HEALTH OF THY SERVANTS:

HIERARCHS

Archbishop BENJAMIN Archbishop ALEJO
Archbishop NATHANIEL Archbishop DANIEL

CLERGY

Archpriest Herman, Matushka Cynthia and George, Elizabeth
Archpriest Vladimir and Matushka Jeanne
Archpriest Alexey and his family
Archpriest Timmothy/Mat. Michelle
Archpriest John and Presbyter Nancy
Archpriest Ken and Matushka Natalie
Archpriest Andreja, Popadija Anica and Family
Archpriest Timmothy Archpriest Leonid Archpriest David
Archpriest John (Onofrey) Archpriest James Archpriest Robert
Priest Peter and Mat. Mary
Dn. Sean and Mat. Heather
Dn. Mark and his family

MATUSHKI Mat. Deborah Popadija Sara Mat. Gayle Mat. Natasha
Mat. Barbara Mat. Katia Mat. Paraskeva Mat. Joanna Popadia Vicki
Mat. Patricia Mat. Gloria Christine Coard Karen
Catherine Ivan/Marina/Inna Bonnie/Silviu Jennifer, Amanda
Edwina Irene Luba Jim, Darren, Marsha
Serena/Asma Lillian Reader Victor Nicholas, Andrew
Marilyn Frank June Theodora Amanda, Chase Ronald, Candice
Sarah Albert Boris Oscar Billy Clyde
Xenia, Justin, Danielle, Anne, Patricia Larry Joseph Frank
Victor Catherine Susan Svetlana Juliana
Evelyn Robert Rebecca Paul Brian
Jeanne Angela, Jason, Michelle Linda Justin Frances
John, Helen Ashley Steven Barbara Daniel
Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria, Tyler Matthew William
Melody Natalie, Lorraine Lee, Maribeth Bridget
Kelly, Robert, Boris, Zaeb, Tirza, Sabas, Sada, Charles, Thlisinitsa,
Gemmam, Geesa, and Patric Lia/Isaiah
Olga and Eugene Jeremy Stewart Susan
Susan Justin Louis Yuri/Elena Alex John, Kevin, Sean
Anthony Aldona, Melinda, Pam Valerie Mary John Rebecca
Jaime/Sammy, Juliana Harry James

Lee, Benjamin, Harry Patrick Aspasia/Stavros
Charles Emma/Alexander Elias, John, Joseph, Nadim, Theresa
Vadym Iryna Yuriy Anastasia Rosemary Anthony
Seraphim Anthony
Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber, Judithann Anita, James, Jeffrey,
Dominic, Douglas, Rachel, Dennis, Edith, Robert, Joanna
Brian John, Roberta, Barbara John, Michael John
George Costa Jonathan, Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo, Clara, Karl,
Dragica, Mary Al and Sophie and Family
Stephen, Larry, Olga, Olga, Sally, Deborah, David
Rdr Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga,
Alexandra, Barbara, Damian
Ron, Illiana, Jillian, Joel, Robert, Susan, Arnold, Kyriaki, Konstantinos,
Danny, Thomas, Amelia, Emily, Kevin/Juanita

Alyssa Marie and the child Luke Joshua born of her
Children of God - Keely, Isla, Talia, Lane, Liam, Caiden
Chryssanthi and the child to be born of her

Diocese of NY&NJ Prayer List

Archpriest Samuel Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar
Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Mat. Myra
Archpriest George Archpriest Paul Mitred Archpriest Ken (*Starevsky*)
Archpriest Jonathan Archpriest Paul

Those Serving in The Armed Forces

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

Inquirers

William and Darlene Matthew Ayden Edward
Rudy and Karen Paul Judy

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

FOR THY DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD:

For all of those who tragically lost their lives to the Coronavirus and other ailments

All 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 Archpriest Rastko
Ever-Memorable Priest John
Ever-Memorable Dn. Mark

Metropolitan HERMAN
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

***If anyone would like to have their loved ones added to the prayer list for remembrance during the Divine Liturgy and Divine Services, 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 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) 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 Donation for Office Supplies (Paper, Copier)
- Monthly Donation for Health Kits for Mats for Mission
- Monthly Donation for Chowder Sale

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!

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 fine 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!

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!**

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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>!

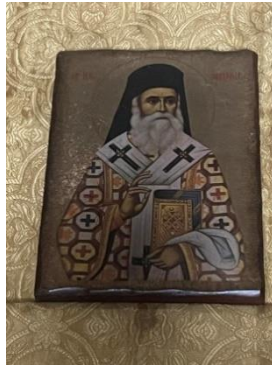
There are videos for each week beginning with The Feast of Feasts – Holy Pascha! Be sure to check them out!

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MONTHLY HEALING PRAYER SERVICE

The Supplicatory Canon Prayer Service to St. Nektarios

MONDAY JUNE 26, 2023 – 6:00 PM



LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. Matt. 5:44

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT BOAST, LOVE IS NOT PROUD, LOVE IS NOT SELFISH, LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED. 1Cor. 13:4

LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, LOVE ALWAYS HAS FAITH, LOVE ALWAYS HAS HOPE, LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER FAILS! 1Cor. 13:7,8

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CENTER

THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA

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

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

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

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias, aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On September 24, 1794, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph. St Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837. Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The Protomartyr Juvenal was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives

in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, St Peter the Aleut was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were St Innocent Veniaminov (March 31 and October 6) and St Jacob Netsvetov (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow. As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive St Alexis Toth (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

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

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

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

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

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ. Sts John Kochurov (October 31) and Alexander Hotovitzky (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. St John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in St Petersburg. St Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

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

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Rejoice, O continent of North America, illumined by the Holy Gospel.
Rejoice, every province, state, city, and town, which raised up citizens of the heavenly Kingdom.
Rejoice, our venerable Father Herman, first Saint of our land. Rejoice, O Martyrs Juvenal and Peter,
for your blood has watered the seed of faith planted in Alaska. Rejoice, O holy Hierarchs: Innocent, Tikhon and Nicholas, Rejoice, O holy Father Alexis and you righteous priests, Rejoice, All Saints of North America, for your light has shone forth to the ends of the earth. We beseech you to pray to Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

{Taken from the Stikhera on Lord, I Call}

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

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Second Sunday after Pentecost Come Follow Me

Matthew 4:18-23

From The Explanation of the Gospel of St. Matthew

by Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It appears that Zebedee did not believe and it is for this reason that they left him. Do you see when it becomes necessary to leave one's father?

When the father becomes an impediment to virtue and reverence for God. When James and John saw the first two follow Christ, they rightly followed Christ as well, imitating their good example.

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

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

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39

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ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA ACTIVITY BOOK FOR CHILDREN and PARENTS

Department of Christian Education •

Orthodox Church in America

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

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

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

A PRAYER TO ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA

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

THE FEAST OF SS PETER AND PAUL

JUNE 29

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

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

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

First, Ss. Peter and Paul are displayed together (in many other icons, their heads are inclined toward each other, or they are even shown giving each other the kiss of peace). They are together to demonstrate the unity of the faith, as well as the unity of the two groups of the early Church: Jews (to whom St. Peter had a special ministry) and Gentiles (to whom St. Paul had a special ministry).

Second, Ss. Peter and Paul are holding a church, showing that they cooperated in spreading the Gospel and building the Church. It is this cooperation that provides the apostolic foundation of the Church (Ephesians 2:20).

Third, if you look closely at their faces and clothes, you will see that they appear to glow. This light is not simply a reflection of the sun: it comes from within the saints, demonstrating their holiness (you will see this in all icons of Christ and the saints).

THE BLESSING OF VEHICLES:

To Honor The Feast of the Prophet Elias (Elijah)

SUNDAY JULY 16, 2022

After his ministry on earth, the Prophet Elias (Elijah) was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot. He is therefore known as the patron saint of vehicles, reminding us that we must struggle to manifest holiness in our lives, especially when we travel.

To honor and celebrate this great Feast and Holy Prophet, THIS SUNDAY JULY 16, following the Divine Liturgy, we will gather together in church to serve the customary service for the blessing of vehicles followed by a procession to the Church Parking Lot where we will bless our vehicles (cars, vans, motorcycles, trucks, bikes, strollers, wagons, walkers, wheelchairs, etc.)

Just as we have our homes blessed each year, everyone is encouraged to bring their vehicles for this special service and have them blessed with Holy Water.

I encourage all of us, our parishioners and families to come and bring our vehicles to church THIS SUNDAY JULY 16 and have them blessed!! For our children, I encourage them to bring their bikes and other modes of transportation that they use/play with so that they, too, can participate in this wonderful tradition!! This is a wonderful pious tradition for us to participate in!! I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday July 10!!

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.

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



St. Andrew's Summer 2023 Camp
Save the Dates!

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed before, during and after the camping season! Contact us for more information.

Week 1: Sunday, July 2 - Saturday, July 8 -- Horse Week 1
 Week 2: Sunday, July 9 - Saturday, July 15 -- Mish Mash Week 1
 Week 3: Sunday, July 16 - Saturday, July 22 -- Horse Week 2
 Week 4: Sunday, July 23 - Saturday, July 29 -- Teen Week 1
 Week 5: Sunday, July 30 - Saturday, August 5 -- Teen Week 2
 Week 6: Monday, Aug. 7 - Friday, Aug. 11 -- Family Week

standrewscamp.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Jason, Matushka Katia

Anna and Alexandra Vansuch

Cordially Invite You to a

Parish Open House/ Church School Picnic

Sunday, July 2, 2023
12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
2 Nottingham Terrace
Buffalo, NY

Luncheon Foods and Refreshments will be served

Games and Activities for Children and Fellowship for Everyone!!

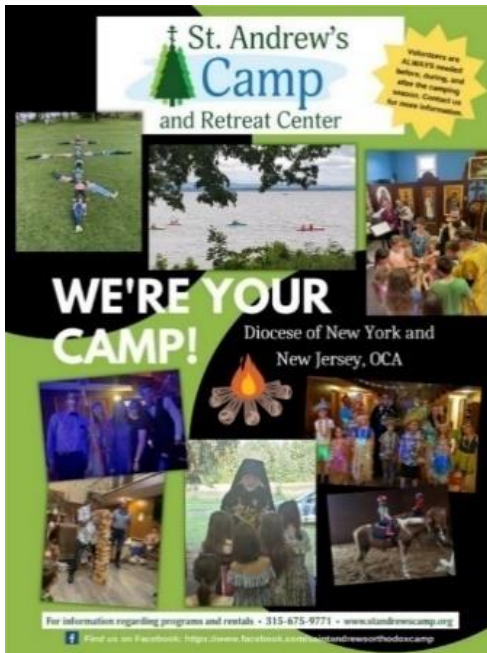
Please RSVP to Matushka Katia by Wednesday June 28

Katia.vansuch@gmail.com

609-851-3034

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****General Confession will be served on Sunday June 25 at 9:00 AM.****



St. Andrew's Camp and Retreat Center

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed before, during and after the camping season! Contact us for more information.

WE'RE YOUR CAMP!

Diocese of New York and New Jersey, OCA

For information regarding programs and rentals • 315-875-9771 • www.standrewscamp.org

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/standreworthodoxcamp>

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

Friday June 23, 2023

Great Vespers with Litiya – 6:00 PM

Saturday June 24, 2023

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Great Vespers – 4:00 PM

Parish Council Meeting (Via Zoom) – 5:30 PM

3) The Holy and Great Feast of the Leaders of The Apostles:

Ss Peter and Paul

Wednesday June 28, 2023

Great Vespers with Litiya – 6:00 PM

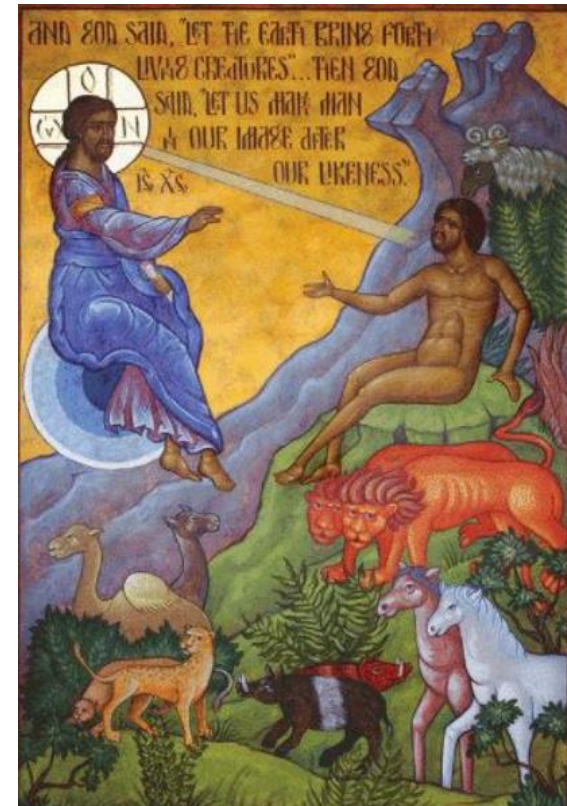
Thursday June 29, 2023

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

JUNE 25-29, 2023



“All of Creation Rejoices.” The author, Kelly Potteiger, who previously wrote the “Let Your Light So Shine” series of lessons, describes the goal of these new lessons as exploring “our relationship with animals from the time of Adam’s creation to the Saints of the 19th century. The leading theme throughout is God’s creation, how it rejoices in glory to God, and how it strives for communion with God’s will.”

The OCA [Department of Christian Education](#) has released new materials to assist parishes and Church School teachers in the formation of Orthodox Christian Students. After reviewing these materials, we will be holding a Vacation Church School for our parish and inviting anyone else that would like to come from our sister parishes here in the area. This will be a great opportunity for our children to come together over the summer as part of their continued growth in their faith and love of Our Lord as well as their friendships with one another in prayer, fellowship, and fun!

DAILY SCHEDULE (Tentative)

Tuesday June 27, 2023

12:00 to 3:30 PM

Introduction: prayer and priest introduction —10 minutes (Fr. Jason)

Station 1: lesson—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 2: games—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 3: craft—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 4: snack—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Closing: prayer and questions—10 minutes (Fr. Jason)

Wednesday June 28, 2023

Eve of The Feast of Ss Peter and Paul

****Great Vespers with Litiya – 6:00 PM****

12:00 to 3:30 PM

Introduction: prayer and priest introduction —10 minutes (Fr. Jason)

Station 1: lesson—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 2: games—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 3: craft—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 4: snack—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Closing: prayer and questions—10 minutes (Fr. Jason)

Thursday June 29, 2023

The Feast of Ss Peter and Paul

****Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM****

12:00 to 3:30 PM

Introduction: prayer and priest introduction —10 minutes (Fr. Jason)

Station 1: lesson—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 2: games—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 3: craft—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 4: snack—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Closing: prayer and questions—10 minutes (Fr. Jason)

Friday June 30, 2023

12:00 to 3:30 PM

Introduction: prayer and priest introduction —10 minutes (Fr. Jason)

Station 1: lesson—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 2: games—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 3: craft—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Break for 10 Minutes

Station 4: snack—25 minutes (Teachers/Parents)

Closing: prayer and questions—10 minutes (Fr. Jason)

****FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP AND ATTEND THE VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT FR. JASON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE (Materials, food, etc). THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND THE VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL!**

5) Annual Church School Picnic/Moleben - SUNDAY JUNE 4

*Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday June 4, we will be holding Our Annual Church School Picnic and Parish Ethnic Luncheon. We will also be holding the End-of-the year Moleben Prayer Service of Thanksgiving for the Church School. An email and mailing will be going out with More details and information.

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

Father’s Day Luncheon - SUNDAY JUNE 18

*Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday June 18, we will be having our Annual Father’s Day Luncheon in the Parish Fellowship Hall. Please plan on joining us for the Divine Liturgy during which we will remember all of our beloved fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles, and men of our parish and families as we ask God’s blessings upon all of them for continued good health and happiness as well as rest eternal and blessed repose to our beloved fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles, and men of our parish and families who now lie asleep in the Lord.

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SS PETER AND PAUL FAST

JUNE 12-29

The spirit of Holy Pentecost leads us to another feast and fast of the church. The feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul is celebrated on June 29th . From the 4th Century on, the Church has celebrated this feast which is spiritually linked with Holy Pentecost. It stands as the witness of the Apostles immediate fruit at the descent of the Holy Spirit when it came upon them. The Feast is preceded by a fasting period called "Saints Peter and Paul Fast." The fast is different from year to year since it always begins on the Monday following All Saints' Sunday (1st Sun. after Pentecost). The fast in preparation for the feast begins this year on June 24th and continues to the feast on June 29th.