

THE ENLIGHTENER

Saints Peter and Paul
Orthodox Christian Church
401 Hamilton St., Syracuse, NY

Glory be to Jesus Christ! I wanted to share a quick reflection on my time at St. Andrew's Camp and the All-American Council in Baltimore. Both of these weeks highlighted the importance of giving our youth the Orthodox Faith in which we all so love. They are the next generation to carry and lead the world tomorrow. The youth are the next leaders and shapers of our culture, not only within the Church, but also within our surrounding communities. In some ways we are raising our children to then entrust them to lead the world of the future generation. **Thus, the heart of the youth today will shape the soul of tomorrow's world.** Therefore, we must give our youth the richness of our Orthodox Faith, not simply the externals of the Faith, but the living tradition of faith, hope, and love in Christ. If we have failed in doing this in the past, may

God forgive, and let us begin anew with a fresh vigor; and if we desire this for our children and yet are struggling to do this now, then may God continue to strengthen and sustain us to persevere until the very end. May God be with you and your entire family now and forever! - *With love in Christ, Fr. Ambrose*



A Spiritual Retreat with Fr. Sergius

Abbot of Saint
Tikhon's Monastery



Saturday, September 17th at 9am

**@ Ss. Peter and Paul's. 401 Hamilton St., Syracuse.
Free to Attend. Donations at the event are welcome!**

Divine Liturgy begins at 9am. First session begins at 11am.
Lunch provided. Second session begins at 2pm. Vespers at 5pm.



FAMILY PICNIC POTLUCK. At Maxwell Park: 6560 Badgley Rd, East Syracuse, NY 13057
Sunday, August 7th.
Starting at 4pm.



LADIES LUNCH; Tuesday,
August 9th after Divine
Liturgy.

Bring something for the potluck lunch. Also a time for discussion.



SUMMER PLAY GROUP at
the Flaherty's House
August 4th, 18th, & 25th
See Clare Flaherty for address and
times.



AGAPE PICNIC on the Lawn
Sunday, August 14th after
Divine Liturgy. Around
11:15am.

Bring fasting friendly food, sides, desserts, drinks, plates, condiments, play equipment, friends, family...



CHURCH SCHOOL WORKSHOP here in Syracuse **Saturday, August 20th**

10am to 2pm. Contact Matushka Tamara Cowan, Diocesan Director of Christian Education, at tamarancowan@hotmail.com.



DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY at **TreEscape Aerial Adventure Park**

Saturday, August 20th

10:30am to 2pm. No fee! Children age 4+, Teens, Recent High School Grads. Register by August 10th.



FAMILY DINNER for anyone
in the parish and in the
community:

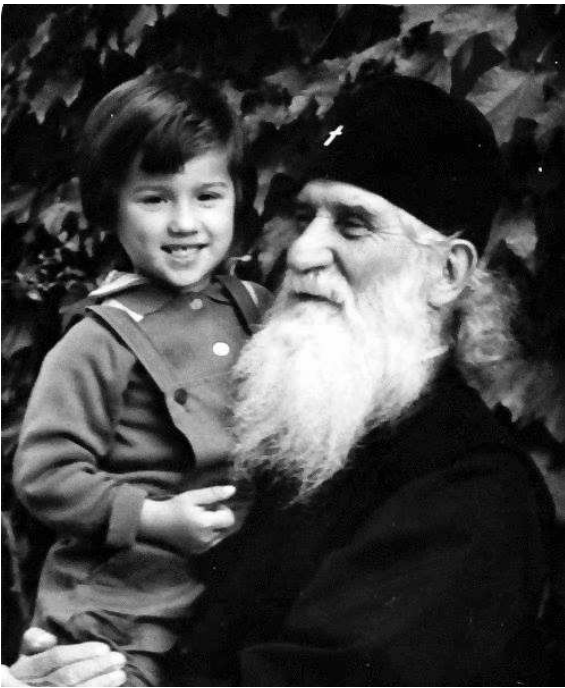
Monday, August 22nd

2pm kitchen volunteers welcome.
5pm-6:30pm is dinner.



**BRAINSTORMING MEETING
ABOUT THE CHURCH HALL
Friday, August 26th at 6pm.**

In-person meeting down in the
parlor.



The Innate Yearning for God in Man

By St. Justin Popovich

It is natural for the Godlike soul to yearn for God as for its original. This is not an *a priori* conclusion, but in every way *a posteriori*, because the entire experience of the human race bears witness to this powerful and mysterious yearning of the human spirit for infinity, for immortality, for eternal life, be it in this world or in the other. If we rely on the universal experience of the human race and reduce man to his basic elements, surely we shall find this yearning for immortality to be the most basic element, upon which the entirety of man rests and in which he ontologically consists.

By creating man in His own image, God thereby poured into his being a yearning for divine infinity of life, for divine infinity of knowledge, for divine infinity of perfection. Therefore, this immense, ravenous yearning of the human being cannot be completely satisfied and satiated with anything except God. When He proclaimed divine perfection as the primary purpose of man's existence in the world: "Be perfect even as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:48), Christ the Lord answered the basic requirement and need of man's Godlike being, which yearns for God. (God and the God-Man, pp. 19-20).

What is Truth?

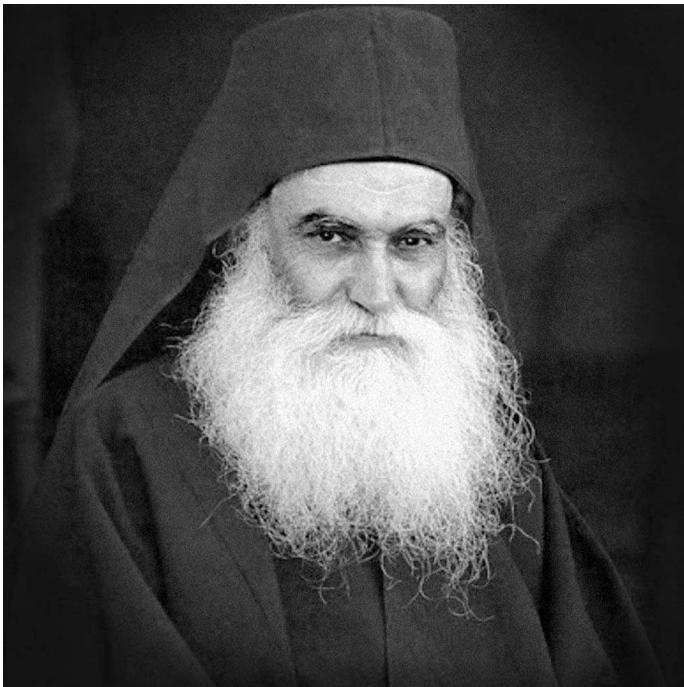
By St. Justin Popovich

In Christianity the Truth is not a discursive concept, or a theory, or a teaching, or a collection of teachings, but a living Divine-human person: the historical Jesus Christ. Up until Christ men had a presentiment of the Truth, but they did not have the Truth itself; with the Christ, the incarnate Word of God, the eternal Divine Truth entered into this world. Thus it is said in the most holy Gospel, "Truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:17).

What is life- actual, true life and the measure of life? Again, the person of the God-man Christ, and not His teaching, divorced from His wonderworking and life-creating Person. No one among men ever dared to say: "I am life" - because every man is mortal. But the God-man did say: "I am the Life" (John 14:6). Rightfully indeed did He say it, for He conquered death by the Resurrection, and showed Himself to be eternally alive by ascending into heaven and sitting at the right hand of the Father. Therefore the God-man is Life, and the criterion of Life. Everything that is not of Him is

mortal. In Him life has its "logos-ness" and its logicalness, for it has its own divine eternity. As the eternal Divine Logos, He is life and ultimate life (cf. John 1:4), for life - is life through Him. Where He is absent, life changes into death, for He is the only One Who makes life life. Falling away from the One Who is Life, always ends in dying and death. Consequently in Him, the Logos and Logic of life, is found the only possible logical justification of human life in the category of time and space. (God and the God-Man, pp. 26).

Sayings from Saint Ephraim of Katounakia



"Everyone has a cross to carry. Why? Since the leader of our faith endured the cross, we will also endure it. On one hand, the cross is sweet and light, but, on the other, it can also be bitter and heavy. It depends on our will. If you bear Christ's cross with love then it will be very light; like a sponge or a cork. But if you have a negative attitude, it becomes heavy; too heavy to lift."

"Obedience doesn't set people free of the bodily passions only, but of the spiritual ones, as well."

"The mountains, the hills, the trees, the sea, and the fish all praise God. But because we've blackened the understanding of our souls, we

understand very little of this, very little."

"The Jesus prayer gives you so much sweetness, so much joy. It's short, but it's got so much power. So much, that you say: 'Even if I go to hell, I'm not afraid. I'll just say the prayer there, as well.'"

"Prayer has great power. If you say the Jesus prayer, you can even bring a soul out of hell. Be patient with your own passions and be patient with mine. Then you'll become a saint. The saints faced sorrows, trials, and temptations with patience. They never asked to be given a break from them and so they gained their reward in heaven."

From: <http://stjohnnoc.org/a-shining-light-of-orthodoxy-st-ephraim-of-katounakia/>

August 2022's

TREASURE HUNT OF SAINTS

THE FIRST TWO PEOPLE to point out to Fr. Ambrose where this Saint's icon is located in the Church will receive a \$25 gift card to the Bookstore.

There are 2 winners: one under 18 years of age, and another over 18. Happy Hunting!

Clue for those under 18

This icon is commonly mistaken as "the beheading of St. John the Forerunner." It is not St. John the Forerunner in this icon, it is another Apostle. Who is it, and where is the icon?

Clue for those over 18

This saint lived during the time of the Union of Brest, which occurred in Ukraine, Poland, and Belarus. He wrote many writings and started a printing press to help the Orthodox not come under the Roman Pope. Those Orthodox who came under the Pope are known as *Uniates*.

Use these two websites as an aid:

<https://www.sspeterandpaulsyracuse.com/the-saints-in-our-church>

For adults, use the "Reading from the Lives of the Saints in Our Church" as an aid found here:

<https://www.sspeterandpaulsyracuse.com/all-education/#Saints>

August 2022

Note - Please see The Weekly for the most accurate times and services. All times in The Weekly, if they are different from below, will be the most accurate.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Start of Dormition Fast >>	6pm Vespers	8:15am Confessions 9am Divine Liturgy	1pm - 4pm. Summer Play Group at the Flaherty's House.	5:30PM: VIGIL FOR THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION (BLESSING OF FRUIT)	9AM: DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION (BLESSING OF FRUIT) 5pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45am Confessions 9:10am Hours 9:30am Sunday Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour 4PM FAMILY PICNIC POTLUCK At Maxwell Park: 6560 Badgley Rd, East Syracuse, NY 13057	6pm Vespers	8:15am Confessions 9am Divine Liturgy for the Glorification of St. Herman of Alaska Followed by a Ladies Potluck Brunch				5pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:45am Confessions 9:10am Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy AGAPE PICNIC ON THE LAWN 5:30PM VIGIL FOR THE FEAST OF DORMITION (BLESSING OF HERBS AND FLOWERS)	9AM DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF DORMITION (BLESSING OF HERBS AND FLOWERS)			10am - 2pm: Summer Play Group at the Flaherty's House.		10am - 2pm: Church School Workshop here at the church Also, DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY at TreEscape Aerial Adventure Park 5pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:10am Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour Parish Council Meeting	2pm, 3:30pm Volunteers 5pm - 6:30pm FAMILY DINNER.	6pm Vespers	8:15am Confessions 9am Divine Liturgy	10am - 2pm: Summer Play Group at the Flaherty's House.	6PM BRAINSTORMING MEETING ABOUT A HALL In-person meeting down in the parlor.	St. Andrew Camp's Annual Bike Ride Fundraiser 5pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions
28	29	30	31	1	2	28
8:45am Confessions 9:10am Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy	9AM DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER (STRICT FAST)		6pm Vespers	8:15am Confessions 9AM DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE CHURCH NEW YEAR		5pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions