

# THE ENLIGHTENER

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

The feast of Pentecost was wonderful, and it was nice to see so many at the cemeteries on Green Sunday! Reflecting on the Feast of Pentecost and the work of the Holy Spirit, let us ask: what is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives? The work of the Holy Spirit within the Church is to sanctify all believers, so that as we grow in holiness our spirit becomes one with Christ's spirit. Thus, the aim of the Holy Spirit is to unify us with Christ and in doing so we are unified with the Father and the Holy Spirit - all the Persons of the Holy Trinity.

Not only does the Holy Spirit unify us with the Holy Trinity, but the more we pursue holiness within ourselves, then the more the Holy Spirit unifies us with each other. Consequently, there is no isolated individualistic member of the Holy Orthodox Church. As a member of the Holy Orthodox Church, we are all of one body and of one soul. This body is Christ and this soul is the Holy Spirit. Thus, as members of the Church we are to be united in Christ's body and to breath as one soul. What does this mean? That we desire - in our depths - the same thing. That we all desire to grow in holiness, to grow in love for God, to grow in love for each other, to offer God our very lives, to repent of our sins and passions. This is the work of the Holy Spirit: to inspire us, to guide us towards sanctity; and as a result, we become one mind, one heart, one mouth, one soul, and one body, with "all the saints."

How can we synergize or cooperate with the Holy Spirit in our own lives and enable Him to unify us with each other and with all of the members of the Holy Church, both on earth and in heaven? By carrying all of the members of the Church within our hearts. By struggling not to hate anyone, by carrying all of those who are sick and suffering within the bosom of our prayer, and by loving and trying to imitate both the ancient and modern Saints to the degree that we are able. In doing so, we will be united with the Holy Trinity by grace, with all of the Saints, and with the members of the Church on earth. - *With love in Christ, Fr. Ambrose*



## THE FAMILY DINNER FREEZER!



**DOWN IN THE  
PARLOR WE  
NOW HAVE A  
NEW FREEZER.**

This Freezer we plan to stock with our Family Dinners as well as the donated meals from Syracuse University that we will receive in the fall. The meals will be available to take to share with parishioners who are unable to attend church, those in the community, and anyone else who could use them. **Please take and deliver them after Sunday Liturgies!**



**PARISH COUNCIL RETREAT**  
from churches around the deanery:

**Saturday, July 2nd.**

**10am to 3pm at the church.**



**JULY 4TH on the Lawn**

**Monday, July 4th: anytime from 6pm till evening.**

Bring a picnic, dessert, sparklers, etc.



**AGAPE PICNIC on the Lawn**  
**Sunday, July 10th after Divine Liturgy. Around 11:15am.**

Bring main dish, sides, desserts, drinks, plates, condiments, play equipment, friends, family...



**SUMMER PLAY GROUP at the Flaherty's House**  
**Thursdays July 14th and 21st: Open House Style**  
**10am to 2pm.**

Come when you can. See Clare for address.



**BAPTISM OF ROSE  
SZYMANIAK**  
**Sunday, July 17th at  
8:30am.**

Come early to Divine Liturgy.



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

**Monday, July 25th**

3:30pm volunteers welcome. 5pm  
dinner starts.



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

Contact Matushka Tamara Cowan, Diocesan  
Director of Christian Education, at  
[tamarancowan@hotmail.com](mailto:tamarancowan@hotmail.com).



**RETREAT WITH FR.  
SERGIUS**, Abbot of St.  
Tikhon's Monastery.

**Saturday, September 17th**

Here at Ss. Peter and Paul. Mark your  
calendars!



## “In Praise of St. Paul”

*By St. John Chrysostom*

**P**aul, more than anyone else, has shown us what man really is, and in what our nobility consists, and of what virtue this particular animal is capable. Each day he aimed ever higher; each day he rose up with greater ardor and faced with new eagerness the dangers that threatened him. He summed up his attitude in the words: “I forget what is behind me and push on to what lies ahead.”

When he saw death imminent, he bade others share his joy: “Rejoice and be glad with me!” And when danger, injustice and abuse threatened, he said: “I am content with weakness, mistreatment and persecution.” These he called the weapons of righteousness, thus telling us that he derived immense profit from them.

Thus, amid the traps set for him by his enemies, with exultant heart he turned their every attack into a victory for himself; constantly beaten, abused and cursed, he boasted of it as though he were celebrating a triumphal procession and taking trophies home, and offered thanks to God for it all: “Thanks be to God who is always victorious in us!” This is why he was far more eager for the shameful abuse that his zeal in preaching brought upon him than we are for the most pleasing honors, more eager for death than we are for life, for poverty than we are for wealth; he yearned for toil far more than others yearn for rest after toil. The one thing he feared, indeed dreaded, was to offend God; nothing else could sway him. Therefore, the only thing he really wanted was always to please God.

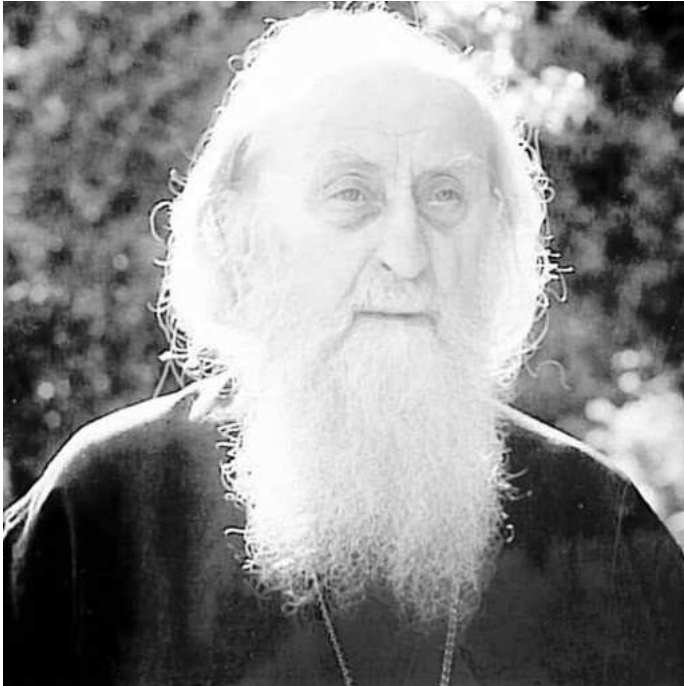
The most important thing of all to him, however, was that he knew himself to be loved by Christ. Enjoying this love, he considered himself happier than anyone else; were he without it, it would be no satisfaction to be the friend of principalities and powers. He preferred to be thus loved and be the least of all, or even to be among the damned, than to be without that love and be among the great and honored.

To be separated from that love was, in his eyes, the greatest and most extraordinary of torments; the pain of that loss would alone have been hell, and endless, unbearable torture. So too, in being loved by Christ he thought of himself as possessing life, the world, the angels, present and future, the kingdom, the promise and countless blessings. Apart from that love nothing saddened or delighted him; for nothing earthly did he regard as bitter or sweet.

Paul set no store by the things that fill our visible world, any more than a man sets value on the withered grass of the field. As for tyrannical rulers or the people enraged against him, he paid them no more heed than gnats. Death itself and pain and whatever torments might come were but child’s play to him, provided that thereby he might bear some burden for the sake of Christ...

# On St. Sophrony of Essex

*Commemorated on July 11th*



**S**aint Sophrony (+1993) is “one of the most beloved orthodox Christian elders of our times, revealed to the world his own experience of union with God, and the path to that union, drawing near to God with intense love and longing accompanied by struggle, self-emptying and searing repentance, Fr. Sophrony was granted to participate in the life of God Himself through His uncreated Energies. Like orthodox saints throughout the centuries, he experienced God's grace as an ineffable, uncreated Light. ... Born into a Russian Orthodox family in Moscow in 1896, Archimandrite Sophrony embarked on a successful career

as a painter in Paris. There he delved into Eastern religions for a time, before repenting bitterly of this and returning to the faith of his childhood. After a brief period of theological study in Paris, he left for the ancient Orthodox monastic republic of Mount Athos in Greece, where he spent fifteen years in a monastery and a further seven as a hermit ‘in the desert’. On Mount Athos he became the spiritual son of a simple monk of holy life, Elder Silouan. It was under the guidance of Saint Silouan that Fr. Sophrony experienced divine illumination, knowing God...”

*From: We Shall See Him As He Is: The Spiritual Autobiography of Elder Sophrony*



July 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**

These two brothers were the first Russian saints to be glorified. One brother is on one side of the church and the other brother is on the other side. They are both on pillars. They are both holding swords and are wearing similar style clothing.

## **Clue for those over 18**

This Saint was a great Prince. His grandmother was Princess Olga. All of Russia was baptized under his reign in 988. He then ordered that pagan temples be torn down, idols flogged, and churches built in their place throughout all of Holy Rus.

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>

# July 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
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
						<b>9AM TO 3PM PARISH COUNCIL RETREAT</b> Here at Ss. Peter and Paul.  3:30pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:45am Confessions 9:10am Hours 9:30am Sunday Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour  <b>St. Andrew's Camp Starts &gt;&gt;</b>	<b>6PM ONWARD: WATCHING OF FIREWORKS</b> Here on the lawn of Ss. Peter and Paul. All who want to come are welcome!	6pm Vespers	8:15am Confessions 9am Divine Liturgy			3:30pm Choir Rehearsal  5pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:45am Confessions 9:10am Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy - Anthony of the Kiev Caves.  <b>Agape Picnic on the Lawn. Starting around 11:15am.</b>	<< Fr. Ambrose and family will be at St. Andrew's Camp this week >>			9am Divine Liturgy with His Eminence at St. Andrew's camp. All are welcome to attend.  <b>10am - 2pm: Summer Play Group at the Flaherty's House.</b>		3:30pm Choir Rehearsal  5pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am Baptism of Rose Szymaniak  9:10am Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy - Fathers of the 1st 6 Ecum. Councils Coffee Hour	<< Fr. Ambrose and family will be at the All American Council in Baltimore this week >>			<b>10am - 2pm: Summer Play Group at the Flaherty's House.</b>		5pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:45am Confessions 9:10am Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy - Boris and Gleb  <b>Coffee Hour - Special Presentation</b>	3:30pm Volunteers  5pm - 6:30pm <b>FAMILY DINNER.</b> Grab and Go and on the Lawn	6pm Vespers	<b>8:45AM CONFESSIONS. 9AM DIVINE LITURGY FOR GREAT HEALER PANTELEIMON.</b>			3:30pm Choir Rehearsal  5pm Great Vespers Followed by Confessions
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