

The Enlightener

SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH



The Bishop's Visit

A full, inspiring, and lively weekend!

The beautiful weekend opened with a divine liturgy on Saturday morning, followed by a retreat on Mother Olga from His Eminence, which inspired many to ask for her saintly prayers. We then welcomed His Eminence on Sunday for a full hierarchical divine liturgy. Stephen Turner was tonsured a reader and we had roughly 15 altar servers (many young to boot), while the choir was full and resplendent with joy! Later that evening, we celebrated Pan-Orthodox Vespers here at Ss. Peter and Paul and welcomed many friends and guests from around the Syracuse Orthodox community. We had seven visiting clergy and around 80 to 100 fellow brothers and sisters in Christ that evening. Following the service, the downstairs was shoulder to shoulder for the lenten meal. Covid brought a halt to gathering together with our fellow Orthodox Christians over the last several years, but this year we have seen a renewal of this multi-generational mission vespers tradition in a vibrant way. What a wonderful, inspiring, and full weekend that will continue to unfold in our hearts for months to come. Have a blessed and radiant Holy Week and Pascha! - Fr. Ambrose



Upcoming Events & News

Robinson Family Baptisms

On Saturday, April 8th around 8:30am, the Robinson family will be received into the church. They have been attending for over a year, are involved in the parish life, have completed the Foundation classes, and are looking forward to their new life in Christ and His Holy Church. Let us congratulate them and welcome them with our whole heart!



Church Cleaning Party

On Lazarus Saturday, April 8th, after Divine Liturgy, we will have our traditional church cleaning party in order to get the church ready for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Pascha! Please come and join us for the Liturgy and cleaning afterwards!



Ladies Night

On Friday, April 21st at 6:30pm. The ladies get together for time of fellowship. All are invited both young and seasoned. See Claire Flaherty for details.



Community Family Dinner

Monday, April 24th will be our next Community Family Dinner. All are welcome to join us! Please come and help volunteer. We could always use more to help interact with our guests.



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Bridegroom Matins

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday evenings at 6pm.

Pre-Sanctified Liturgies

Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday mornings at 9am

Holy Unction Service

Holy Wednesday at 6pm

Holy Thursday

Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Holy Thursday at 9:30am

12 Passion Gospels

Holy Thursday at 6pm

Holy Friday

Royal Hours

Holy Friday at 9am

Holy Friday Vespers - Burial of

Christ Holy Friday at 3pm

Burial Holy Saturday Matins
followed by Tomb Vigil

Procession with the Shroud - Friday at 7pm

Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday Vespers Liturgy

Holy Saturday at 10am

Great and Holy Pascha

11:30pm onward

Pascha Sunday

Agape Paschal Vespers

Pascha day at 12pm

Paschal Picnic w/ egg hunt

After Agape Vespers at 12pm

Bright Week

Bright Week Divine Liturgies

Bright Monday and Tuesday at 10am, Wednesday at 9am

Liturgy with His Eminence @

St. Andrew's Camp
Bright Saturday at 9:30am

St. Peter and Paul's

Paschal Picnic

Sunday, April 16th

Paschal Vespers begin at 12pm
Followed by Potluck Picnic, BBQ,
and egg hunt on the lawn



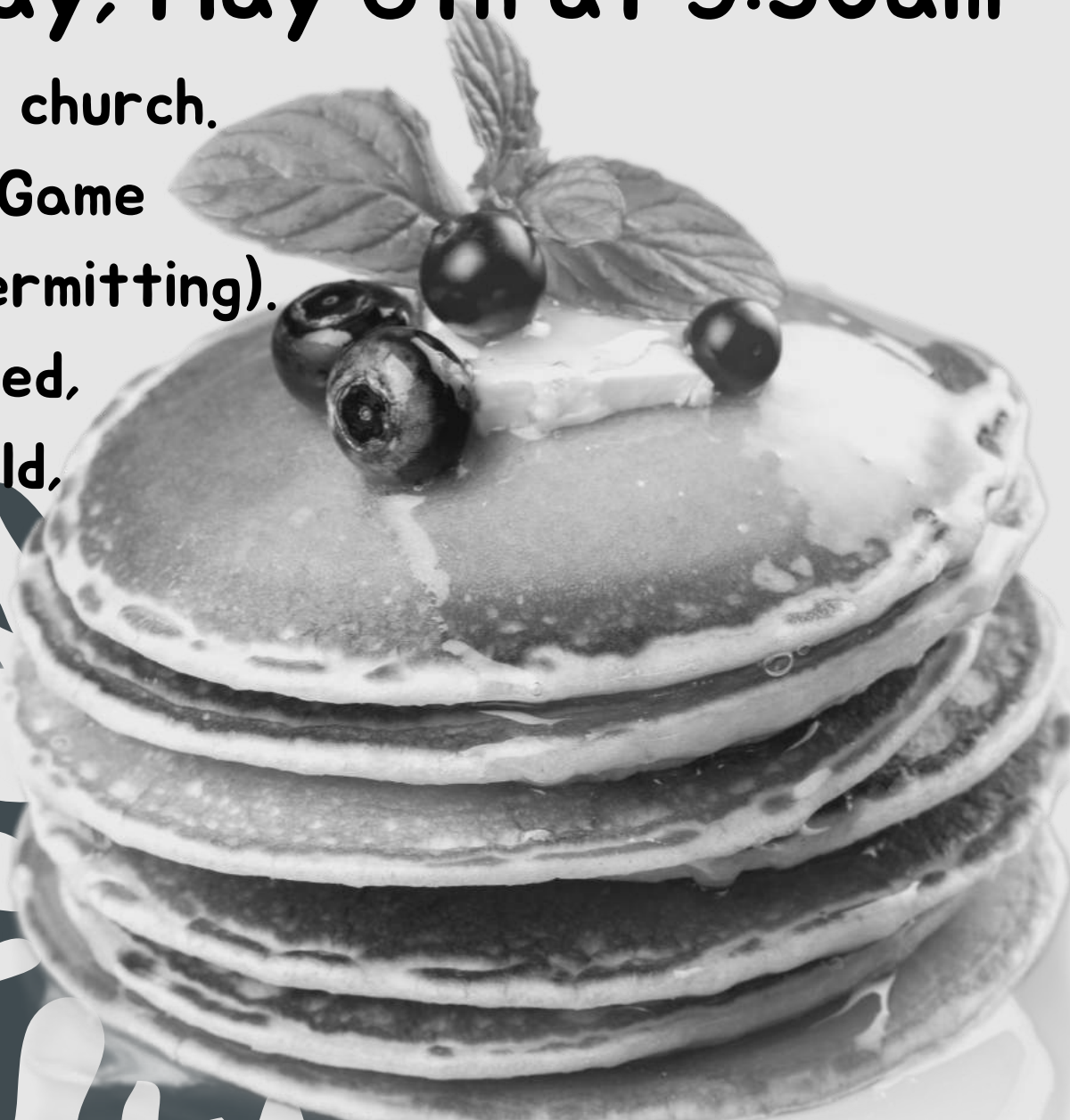
PARISH FAMILY BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 6th at 9:30am

Here at the church.

Whiffle Ball Game
(weather permitting).

All are invited,
young and old,
families,
children,
couples,
and single.



FRAZER SCHOOL OUTREACH

"We were talking about your [church's] commitment to this free dinner at our board meeting on Tuesday. We think it's amazing." - Janice. President of the Tipp Hill Neighborhood Association.

Thank God, we have completed the first year of our partnership with Syracuse University. The partnership started in March of 2022 by recovering leftover food from a few of their dining halls every week. We would then give this food away first to the parishioners in the Family Dinner Freezer downstairs. Some parishioners would also take these frozen meals to anyone who could use them. The type of food varied and would be anywhere from London Broil, to Chinese Chicken, to Chicken Pesto Pizza, Lo Mein, and everything in between. Honestly, some of them were quite delicious. We then were able to use this food at many of the church events including coffee hours and other post-liturgical meals. Due to food prices and inflation, this has helped many families within the parish tremendously! We then were able to give away many frozen meals from this recovered food to those who come to our Family Dinners on the 4th Monday of every month.

Consequently, a few months ago, I called Frazer School only about a mile down the street from the church, located on Wall St., and asked if they would be interested in working together. I didn't quite know how this partnership would work, but at Frazer I met a very energetic social worker who took her job seriously and wanted to help the families of their children, so she enthusiastically agreed to find a way to work together. We had countless pounds of frozen, all-ready prepared food, and they had families that were in need of this food. It was a great match from the beginning! Thank God, we've been able to give the families of Frazer school roughly around 50 to 60 full meals of food every week. I thank God for our many wonderful volunteers who make this happen, as a result many children are able to have dinner in the evenings and on weekends where they might not normally be able to eat. May God continue to bless this ministry and may His will be done in our own backyard! - Fr. Ambrose



HALL DISCOVERY MEETINGS

Over the last many months, there have been a group of enthusiastic parishioners who have attended monthly meetings to search out, to discuss, and to converse about the possibility of a parish activity center. Over the last month, this group set out to accomplish several objectives: 1. to recommend to the parish council, and eventually to the parish, a proposed possible location for a potential Parish center; 2. to outline a rough layout and initial footprint of a building; and 3. to outline roughly what the exterior and interior could look like. The group met for three consecutive weeks over the last month to formalize the rough details of a presentation that will be given to the parish council, and, Lord willing, eventually to the parish. There are still many details to work through, but at least the conversation is taking place and things are moving forward. Not every detail is worked out, but the objective of the group has initially been accomplished and the hope is that a presentation will be delivered as more details are solidified.



BUDGET AND BY-LAWS

Thanks to many faithful parish council members donating their time for the building up of Christ's Church, we have had many hours of budget and by-law meetings to find ways to continue to lay a foundation for the future of the parish. Just as our generation is reaping the fruit of the generation 100 years ago, and those who have been faithful stewards of Christ's parish and flock, we now are looking to continue to offer a foundation upon solid ground for the next 100 years and the future generations that are to come. Sometimes this involves subtle details of improving the parish budget and by-laws. The by-laws, which have not been updated for 20 years, are now in the process of being updated. The hope is to present the updated by-laws to the parish soon.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATES

Last year many generous donors contributed to the project of a new reliquary as well as the project of the beautification of a new side door in the church with a carved icon. The reliquary is under way by the craftsmen at St. Elizabeth's Convent, and the door project is still being negotiated. We hope to begin the door project soon, as \$10k has been donated already for this project.



ELDER PORPHYRIOS ON PASCHAL HYMNS AND VICTORY OVER SORROWS AND SETBACKS

The Elder Porphyrios once asked a pilgrim visiting him:

— Do you know the troparion that begins, “We celebrate the slaying of death ...”?

— Yes, elder, I know it.

— Then say it.

— “We celebrate the slaying of death, the destroying of hell, the beginning of another way of life that is eternal. And leaping for joy, we sing a hymn to the Cause, the only blessed and most glorious God of our fathers.”

— Do you understand it?

— Certainly I understand it.

I thought that he was asking me for a translation into modern Greek.

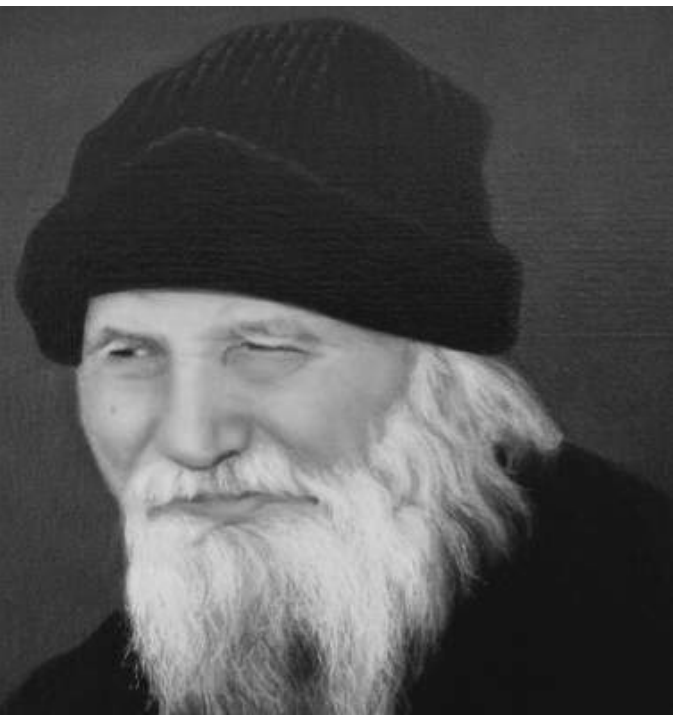
The Elder then waved his hand dismissively saying,

— Little George, you didn’t understand anything at all! You said it quickly like a chanter in a hurry. Listen to what awesome things are said in this hymn: Through Christ and His resurrection, we do not get across a river, a gorge, a canal, a lake, or even the Red Sea. We have moved across an abyss that no human being could cross on his own. Ages came and went with the world waiting for this Pascha, for this passage. Our Christ passed from death to life! That’s why today “we celebrate the slaying of death, the destroying of hell.” Death is no more. We celebrate today “the beginning of another way of life that is eternal,” a life with Him.

Speaking with enthusiasm and conviction, the Elder was clearly moved. The elder paused and continued more energetically:

— Now there is no more chaos, no more death, no more slaying, no more Hell. Now everything is joy, thanks to the resurrection of our Christ. Human nature is resurrected with Him. Now we too can rise again that we might live with Him eternally ... What bliss is contained in the Resurrection! “And leaping for joy, we sing a hymn to the Cause.” Have you seen how young goats now in the spring frolic on the green grass? They drink some of their mother’s milk and then prance about leaping for joy, and so do we celebrating the ineffable joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

He then stopped speaking. Pure joy was now in the air. And the elder continued,



—Can I give you some advice? In every sorrow, with every failure, in anything that causes you pain, collect yourself for half a minute and slowly say this hymn. Then, you will see that the most important thing in your life and in the life of the entire universe has already been accomplished with the resurrection of Christ. It is our salvation. And then, you realize that all our setbacks are so insignificant, that you don't need to allow them to spoil your mood.

More from St. Porphyrios:

Our aim must be to become holy and God may then grant us additional powers. Grace does not come to those who are ego-centered. It comes only to those who are humble, selfless, and love God above all else.

Christ is joy, the true light, happiness. Christ is our hope. Our relation to Christ is love, eros, passion, enthusiasm, longing for the divine. Christ is everything. He is our love. He is the object of our desire. This passionate longing for Christ is a love that cannot be taken away. This is where joy flows from. When you find Christ, you are satisfied, you desire nothing else, you find peace. You become a different person... Christ is in all your thoughts, in all your actions. You have grace and you can endure everything for Christ.

Man has such powers that he can transmit good or evil to his environment. These matters are very delicate. Great care is needed. We need to see everything in a positive frame of mind. We mustn't think anything evil about others. Even a simple glance or a sigh influences those around us. And even the slightest anger or indignation does harm. We need to have goodness and love in our soul and to transmit these things. We need to be careful not to harbour any resentment against those who harm us, but rather to pray for them with love. Whatever any of our fellow men does, we should never think evil of him. We need always to have thoughts of love and always to think good of others.

The most important weapon to use against the devil is the Holy Cross, of which he is terrified. ... communication with the Christ, when it takes place simply and naturally without force, makes the devil flee.

This is our method. We will raise our arms to Christ and He will give us grace.

What we are doing is showing contempt for evil.

If evil comes to assault you, turn all your inner strength to good, to Christ. Pray, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me."

But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from

taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:27-31

Love Him simply and humbly, without any demand, and He Himself will free you.

In our prayer we should ask only for the salvation of our soul....

The secret is to ask for your union with Christ with utter selflessness, without saying "give me this" or "give me that."... We should ask for the will of God to be done.

The enemy is our egoism.

We must become filled, replete with the Holy Spirit. This is where the essence of spiritual life lies. This is an art—the art of arts. Let us open our arms and throw ourselves into Christ's embrace.

There is one thing we must do, and that is turn to Him and love Him with our soul. Love for Christ: this is the best and sole remedy for the passions.

Those who desire and crave to belong to Christ and who abandon themselves to the will of God become worthy.

This is the greatest spiritual challenge to give up our will and submit it to God's will. It is a necessity to be able to keep all of His commandments. This is the sign of our love of God.

From *Wounded by Love: The Life and Wisdom of Elder Porphyrios* trans. by John Raffan (Limni, Evia, GRE: Denise Harvey, Publisher, 2005),

APRIL 2023

Note: If this calendar and The Weekly are different, assume The Weekly is the most accurate.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFD Meal Prep 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 6pm PanOrth Vespers 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Dinner (CFD) 9am Food Pantry Delivery 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm From the Holy Fathers 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm From the Holy Fathers 6pm Pre-Sanct Liturgy 7:25pm Lenten Meal & Read 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Pre-Sanct w/ArchBishop 12pm Deanery Mtg 6pm Great Canon 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Pre-Sanct Liturgy 10am Street Ministry Meal P 10:30am SU Food Procession 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 6pm PanOrth Vespers 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry Delivery 6pm By-Law Mtg 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm From the Holy Fathers 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm From the Holy Fathers 6pm Pre-Sanct Liturgy 7:25pm Lenten Meal & Read 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm From the Holy Fathers 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Pre-Sanct Liturgy 10am Street Ministry Meal P 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lazarus Saturday 8:30am Baptisms 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11am Breakfast 11:20am Church Clean-up 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Sunday 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Procession 11:15am Agape Meal 6pm Bridgroom Matins 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holy Week 9am Food Pantry Delivery 9am Pre-Sanct Liturgy 6pm Bridgroom Matins 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Pre-Sanct Liturgy 6pm Bridgroom Matins 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Pre-Sanct Liturgy 6pm Holy Union 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Vesp/Liturgy of St. B 6pm 12 Passion Gospels 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Royal Hours 10am Street Ministry Meal P 10:30am SU Food Procession 3pm Vespers/winding sheet 7pm Burial- Holy Sat. Matins 8:30pm Tomb Vigil! 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Holy Sat Vesp/Lit 5pm Senior Basket Blessing 10pm Reading of the Acts 11:30pm Holy Pascha
<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30pm Holy Pascha Holy Pascha 10:30am SU Food Procession 12pm Paschal Vespers 12:45pm Paschal BBQ 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bright Week 9am Food Pantry Delivery 10am Paschal Divine Lit 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Paschal Divine Lit 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Paschal Divine Lit 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am SU Food Procession 6:30pm Ladies Night 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Div Liturgy w/His Em 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFD Meal Prep 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 12pm Annual Meeting 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm tp 6pm Family Dinner (CFD) 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radonitsa 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am SU Food Procession 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
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