

The Enlightener

SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Our Camp

It was truly an honor to be with so many wonderful people during Horse Week 2 at St. Andrew's Camp. The directors, the volunteers, the counselors, the CITs all showed their selfless love for Christ in how they ran the camp and interacted with the children. I thank God for them and their service to Christ's Holy Church! Our week was filled with Matins every morning, kayaking, fishing, acting out bible stories, an old fashioned hoe down, a field trip to the Wild Animal Park, Vespers every evening, time with His Eminence, horse riding, plus more. The kids were busy from morning till night, worshipping God, forming friendships, serving others, and spending hours outside in the fresh air. The atmosphere of camp was contagious, uplifting, and one that I highly recommend all to experience - With love in Christ, Fr. Ambrose



Upcoming Events & News

Fundraising Bike Ride for St. Andrew's Camp

Saturday August 26, 2023.

This ride is ideal for the person who has never attempted a charity bike ride. You CAN do this ride! The Ride offers 3 distances from which to choose, each on flat to rolling terrain. Overnight accommodations are available at the camp. Make the Ride part of extended weekend and visit the Finger Lakes, Great Lakes, or take in the Adirondacks. Reunite with an alumnus. Nearby attractions are available for family members not riding. Reach out and ask a friend to bike with you and support the Camp at the same time. Read on for additional information and registration.

Three distances are available: 12, 30, or 62 (metric century) miles. You can decide on the day of the event. Coffee and sign is at 9 AM. Ride start time is 10 AM for the metric century for the shorter routes. Cue sheets will be distributed on event day. Each route starts and ends at the Camp.

Registration is \$60. Each route has designated rest stops with water bottle refills and food. A SAG (Support And Gear) wagon provides access for your extra gear as it follows along the routes and rest stops. Experienced bike riders will be available to buddy up with so no one rides alone. A delicious BBQ awaits you at the finish.

SAINT ANDREW'S CAMP
Annual Bicycle Ride Fundraiser!



Vigil and Feast Day for Dormition

Monday, August 14th we will celebrate Vigil for this great feast, and on Tuesday, August 15th, we will celebrate the festal Divine Liturgy. This is truly one of the great feasts of our church and all are encouraged to attend!

BAPTISM OF MARLEE BELSER

Early next month, we will be anticipating the reception of Marlee Belser, daughter of Joshua Belser into our Church family. The date will be Sunday, September 3rd before Divine Liturgy. She has faithfully attended all of the Foundations Classes, has come with her father to Divine Liturgies and is now embarking on her new life in Christ. Come and support her, her God-parents, and her father. This will surely be a glorious day for all!



FUNDRAISING TEAM MEETING

On August 6th, we will be having a parish wide fundraising team meeting. All who have ideas and would like to participate are encouraged to attend. Parish Council members will be there as well as anyone else who would like to come. It takes place shortly after coffee-hour. There are two potential fundraisers scheduled for the first of October, and in November, the second annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser is scheduled. We could use all the help we can get and we warmly invite you to get involved!



OUR 20TH COMMUNITY FAMILY DINNER HELD WAS TRULY AN EVENT TO BEHOLD.

First we extend our most sincere appreciation and love to all who came and gave of their time to labor under very challenging conditions including a very hot and humid kitchen and a sudden thunderstorm and downpour which literally rained on our outdoor dining plans. We were so pleased to welcome unexpected volunteers from Albany and from Auburn who jumped right in to help, as we very much missed several faithful and dedicated volunteers who had other commitments.

Our resiliency as a community was on full display as we quickly had to pivot away from the outdoor dining plans (and relocate the recently completed setup of grills, tables - well appointed with tablecloths & flowers - and chairs, while avoiding falling tree branches!)

Being unable to use the Church parlors due to the broken elevator, we were able to spontaneously seat about 12 people, mostly “walk-ins” inside the 3-bay garage! We did miss our musician (harpist) as she had to understandably cancel due to the storm.

We served everything we made before closing time and yet had many people arrive afterward, leading to a need to microwave dinners frozen from last month, especially for delivery to the homeless encamped at various locations in the city by our good friend Rick. It is truly a wonder at how all these things come together to bring so many people together to share an experience of Hospitality and God’s Love!

The words of appreciation for this effort which “helps me get by”, “helps me feed my three children” and which “gives me a chance to meet new people and to engage with them” continue to stream in and uplift our hearts to “Thank God!” The smiles and heartfelt love that we witness give us energy, enthusiasm and new vigor to proceed on to our 21st Community Family Dinner on August 28th.

Please join us and share the Love and Joy of the experience!

Written by Greg Szymaniak

Congratulations

To Reader Stephen Turner now
tonsured as a Sub-Deacon by His
Eminence, Archbishop Michael on
Tuesday, July 25th at St. Olympia's
Mission in Norwood, NY.

Our heartfelt prayers and
congratulations go out to him and to
his wife Rose. Soon, Subdeacon
Stephen will be heading off to St.
Tikhon's Seminary in September,
where afterward he looks to
continue the work of establishing a
mission in Watertown, NY.

Let us show him and the mission in
Watertown our support in any way
we can!

TOWNHALL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH @ 6PM

DOWN IN THE PARLOR AND ON ZOOM

**HEAR THE LATEST PARISH NEWS
VOICE YOUR IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS
HELP US WITH PROJECTS**

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION - AS FAR AS WE CAN GET

1. HOW THE PARISH COUNCIL CAN BETTER COMMUNICATE TO THE PARISH. THE USE OF GOOGLE DOCS TO HELP WITH THIS.
2. THE IMPROVEMENT OF OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION
3. HOW TO BETTER HANDLE THE GRASS CUTTING ON THE HILLS
4. HOW TO IMPROVE UTILITY COSTS: SMART THERMOSTATS.
5. HOW TO IMPROVE THE PRINTER/ COPIER SITUATION.
6. ELEVATOR UPDATE AND WAYS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION MOVING FORWARD.
7. THE EARLY STAGES OF FORMING A SECURITY PLAN
8. FRAZER SCHOOL SCARVES PROJECT



From the Holy Fathers @ Noon

TUES, WED, & THURSDAYS DURING AUGUST
WE WILL MEET ON ZOOM/PHONE FOR 30
MINS FOR PRAYER, A SHORT READING, AND
DISCUSSION.

JOIN US DURING YOUR LUNCH BREAK!

[SSPETERANDPAULSYRACUSE.COM/ZOOM](https://sspeterandpaulsyracuse.com/zoom)



ON THE DORMITION FAST

The Dormition fast was established as preceding the great feasts of the Transfiguration of the Lord and of the Dormition of the Mother of God. It lasts two weeks—from August 1/14–August 14/27 (old style/new style).

The Dormition fast comes down to us from the early days of Christianity.

We find a clear reference to the Dormition fast in a conversation of Leo the Great from around the year 450 A.D. “The Church fasts are situated in the year in such a way that a special abstinence is prescribed for each time. Thus, for spring there is the spring fast]—the Forty Days[Great Lent; for summer there is the summer fast... [the Apostles’ fast]; for autumn there is the autumn fast, in the seventh month [Dormition fast]; for winter there is the winter fast [Nativity fast].”

St. Symeon of Thessalonica writes that, “The fast in August [Dormition fast] was established in honor of the Mother of God the Word; Who, foreknowing Her repose, ascetically labored and fasted for us as always, although She was holy and immaculate, and had no need for fasting. Thus, She especially prayed for us in preparation for being transported from this life to the future life, when Her blessed soul would be united through the Divine spirit with Her Son. Therefore, we also should fast and praise Her, emulating Her life, urging Her thereby to pray for us. Some, by the way, say that this fast was instituted on the occasion of two feasts—the Transfiguration and the Dormition. I also consider it necessary to remember these two feasts—one which gives us light, and the other which is merciful to us and intercedes for us.”

The Dormition fast is not as strict as the Great Fast, but it is stricter than the Apostle’s and Nativity fasts.

On Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays of the Dormition fast, the Church rubrics prescribe xerophagy, that is, the strictest fast of uncooked food (without oil); on Tuesdays and Thursdays, “with cooked food, but with no oil”; on Saturdays and Sundays wine and oil are allowed.



Until the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, when grapes and apples are blessed in the churches, the Church requires that we abstain from these fruits. According to the tradition of the holy fathers, “If one of the brethren should eat the grapes before the feast, then let him be forbidden for obedience’s sake to taste of the grapes during the entire month of August.”

On the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, the Church rubrics allow fish. After that day, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the fruits of the new harvest would always be included in the meals.

The spiritual fast is closely united with the bodily, just as our soul is united with the body, penetrates it, enlivens it, and makes one united whole with it, as the soul and body make one living human being. Therefore, in fasting bodily we must at the same time fast spiritually: “Brothers, in fasting bodily let us also fast spiritually, severing all union with unrighteousness,” the Holy Church enjoins us.

The main thing in fasting bodily is restraint from abundant, tasty and sweet foods; the main thing in fasting spiritually is restraint from passionate, sinful movements that indulge our sensual inclinations and vices. The former is renunciation of the more nourishing foods for fasting food, which is less nourishing; the latter is the renunciation of our favorite sins for exercise in the virtues which oppose them.

The essence of the fast is expressed in the following Church hymn: “If you fast from food, my soul, but are not purified of the passions, in vain do we comfort ourselves by not eating. For if the fast does not bring correction, then it will be hateful to God as false, and you will be like unto the evil demons, who never eat.”

The Great fast and the Dormition fast are particularly strict with regard to entertainment—in Imperial Russia even civil law forbade public masquerades and shows during these fasts.

The Dormition fast begins on the feast of the “Procession of the Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord.”

In the Greek horologion of 1897, the origin of this feast is explained: “Because of the illnesses that occur very often during August, the custom was established in Constantinople of processing the Precious Wood of the Cross through the roads and streets to sanctify places and prevent disease. On the eve of the feast it was carried out of the royal treasury and placed upon the holy table of the Great Church (the Hagia Sophia, dedicated to the Holy Wisdom of God). From that day until the Dormition of the Most Pure Theotokos, lityas were served throughout the city, and the Wood of the Cross was then offered to the people for veneration. This was the procession of the Precious Cross.”

In the Russian Orthodox Church, this feast was linked with the remembrance of the Baptism of Russia in 988. The memory of the day of the Baptism of Russia was preserved in the Chronologies of the sixteenth century, which state that, “Grand Prince Vladimir of Kiev and All Rus was baptized on August 1.” In the Discussion of active rites of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on the Dormition, written in 1627 at the request of Patriarch Philaret of Moscow and All Russia, the feast on August 1 is described: “During the procession on the day of the Precious Cross, there is a blessing of the waters for the enlightenment of the people, throughout the cities and villages.”

On this day, a feast was established of the All-Merciful Savior Christ God, and of the Most Pure Virgin, in honor of the victory of Grand Prince Andrei Bogolubsky over the Volga Bulgars, and of the Greek Emperor Michael over the Saracens.

According to Orthodox Church tradition, on this day the Cross is venerated (according to the rubrics of the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross during Great Lent), and a lesser blessing of the waters is served. Together with the blessing of the waters, new honey is also blessed. (This is where the Russian folk name for the feast, “Savior of the honey,” comes from.)

From the Moscow Patriarchate: <https://orthochristian.com/38700.html>

August 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>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confession ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Food Pantry Deliver 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dormition Fast ● Prophora Baking ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 6pm Vespers 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 7pm Stewardship meetin 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm VIGIL for Transfig
<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dormition Fast ● Trans guration ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confession ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal ● 12:15pm Fundraising Mt 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Food Pantry Deliver 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 6pm Vespers 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Herman of Alaska ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 6pm Town Hall Mtg. 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm Great Vespers 	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dormition Fast ● St. Tikhon of Zadonsk ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confession ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal ● 12:30pm Parish Council 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Food Pantry Deliver ● 5:30pm Dormition VIGIL 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dormition ● 9am Dormition Liturgy 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 6pm Church School Teac 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm Great Vespers 	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confession ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal ● 12:30pm Parish Council 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Food Pantry Deliver 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm From the Holy Fat 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 6pm Vespers 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 9pm Panera Pick Up ● 9pm Food Recovery 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am St. Andrew's Bike R ● 5pm Great Vespers 	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:15am Ridesharing ● 8:45am Holy Confession ● 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour ● 9:30am Divine Liturgy ● 11:15am Agape Meal ● 12:30pm Family Pool Pa 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Job of Pochaev ● 9am Food Pantry Deliver ● 4:30pm Family Dinner 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beheading of St. John ● 9am Divine Liturgy ● 12pm From the Holy Fat 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 6pm Church School Teac 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12pm From the Holy Fat ● 5pm Mental Health Train ● 9pm Panera Pick Up ● 9pm Food Recovery 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proshpora Baking ● 8:30am Mental Health Tr 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm Great Vespers