

The Enlightener

SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH



The Value of Our Soul

“The importance of the soul is such that if the price of gaining the whole world impairs her on the Divine plan, all the treasures of the earth will not make up for the spiritual damage incurred,” writes St. Sophrony of Essex. Thus, let us be ever mindful of the true aim of human existence: to be adorned and clothed upon by the immortal Christ. All other earthly objectives do not compare to this aim. How can the medicine of immortality, the source of the sanctification of our soul, the foundation of our true joy, even compare to any earthly thing? In shaping the priorities of our life, let us take heed first of all to the nourishment, the spiritual health, and the sanctification of the most valuable gift that God has given to us: our soul. - With love in Christ, Fr. Ambrose



Upcoming Events & News

St. Andrew's Camp

July 2nd-Aug. 11th. 6 weeks this year. Sign up your children and let others know. Fr. Ambrose and family will be there during Horse Week 2, which is July 16th-22nd. To sign up use this link: https://portal.campnetwork.com/Register/Register.php?camp_id=397695 or the QR code below. Scholarships available.



Community Family Dinner

Monday, July 24th from 4:30pm to 6pm will be our next Community Family Dinner. All are welcome to join us! Please come and help volunteer. We have both drive-thru and dine-in options, so there is plenty to help with. Come and help interact and get to know our guests!



From the Holy Fathers @ Noon

During the Dormition Fast, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, we will be meeting at 12pm for 30 minutes. First we will do the 6th or 9th hour, then a short reading from a Holy Father, then a short discussion. Join us at Sspeterandpaulsyracuse.com/zoom



BAPTISM OF LAUREN ELIZABETH HILE AND GRIFFIN CIARIAN BLACK

On June 25th, we had the pleasure of welcoming Lauren and Griffin into the Orthodox Family. It was a beautiful event. It occurred before the start of Divine Liturgy and many of the faithful came to show their support and offer prayers. May God grant Lauren Elizabeth, who will be getting married to her fiancé Del at the end of July, a fruitful life in Christ and His Holy Church; as well as Griffin who comes to us from Watertown. May God grant them a prosperous and peaceful life in the Church and may He strengthen them in the Christian faith unto the end.

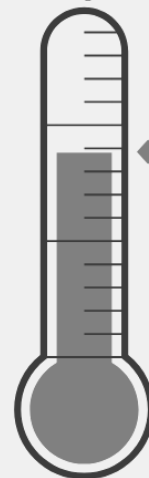


STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE INITIATIVES

After many months of budget and finance meetings, the Parish Council successfully presented the budget to the parish at the Annual Meeting. The unrestricted income goal for the 2023 year is \$200k. We are roughly 62.5% of the way toward that goal. For the rest of the year, the Parish Council, and the parish as a whole, will be focusing on Stewardship and Fundraising initiatives to help lay a strong foundation for the 2024 year. If you would like to be involved in these two initiatives, we invite you to get involved and come to the meetings when they are announced. Remember: all meetings are open to everyone in the parish, and we encourage you to come and get involved!

2023 Unrestricted Budget Goal

\$200,000



Raised
\$125,257

CONGRATULATIONS TO SUB-DEACON JOHN AND THE DOTTERER FAMILY

On June 29th, we had a very busy day, welcoming His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, to our parish for the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. We celebrated a full hierarchical liturgy and welcomed parishioners from several parishes. Fr. Joel Brady and several of the faithful of Holy Apostles Mission in Lansing, NY joined us. On this occasion, His Eminence ordained Reader John Henry Dotterer to the sub-diaconate. Those who were present felt the joy of the occasion. We pray that God grant sub-deacon John and his family many wonderful, peaceful, and prosperous years helping to serve our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ in His Holy Church.



A FOURTH OF JULY PARISH GATHERING

On July 4th, many of the faithful gathered at the church property for a time of fellowship and watching the fireworks over the city of Syracuse. All of the parish family were invited. It was a time of celebration, and a wonderful excuse to simply get together and enjoy each other's company. From the parish grounds, there is a beautiful view of fireworks being fired off from all over the city. You can see fireworks as far as 15+ miles away.



PLEASE DONATE

SOCKS & SNACKS

THEN HELP US PUT THESE ITEMS INTO THE HOSPITALITY
BAGS TO THEN GIVE OUT TO THOSE IN NEED.



PLEASE DONATE ONLY

NON-PERISHABLE AND UNEXPIRED
HEALTHY SNACKS AND UNUSED SOCKS



SUPPORT SEMINARIAN ZACHARY PRICE

Dear Faithful of Ss. Peter & Paul,

Attending St. Tikhon's is a wonderful and challenging experience. In addition to academic life at the seminary, the rigors of spiritual life demanded on one through participation in Monastery life continue to be a welcome challenge. However, life at St. Tikhon's is often extremely busy, and the limited opportunities for work makes financial hardship a reality. Currently, I am in need of \$720 dollars total, monthly, in order to keep up with bills associated with life as well as seminary expenses. I humbly ask you to consider a weekly or monthly donation in order to help me stay current with my expenses. Below is a breakdown of what this may look like. In asking for your continued prayers and support during my journey through seminary, I assure you of my own prayers on behalf of the faithful at Ss. Peter & Paul.

With love, Reader Zachary Price

No. of Donors	Monthly Pledge	Weekly Pledge
20	\$36.00	\$9.00
30	\$24.00	\$6.00
35	\$21.00	\$5.25
40	\$18.00	\$4.50
45	\$16.00	\$4.00
50	\$14.50	\$3.65

IF YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT READER ZACHARY ONE TIME, OR ON A MONTHLY BASIS, I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO SO! SIMPLY PUT "SEMINARIAN ZACHARY" ON THE CHECK MEMO OR DONATE ONLINE. ALL DONATIONS WILL THEN BE MAILED TO HIM AT ST. TIKHON'S SEMINARY. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

- FR. AMBROSE

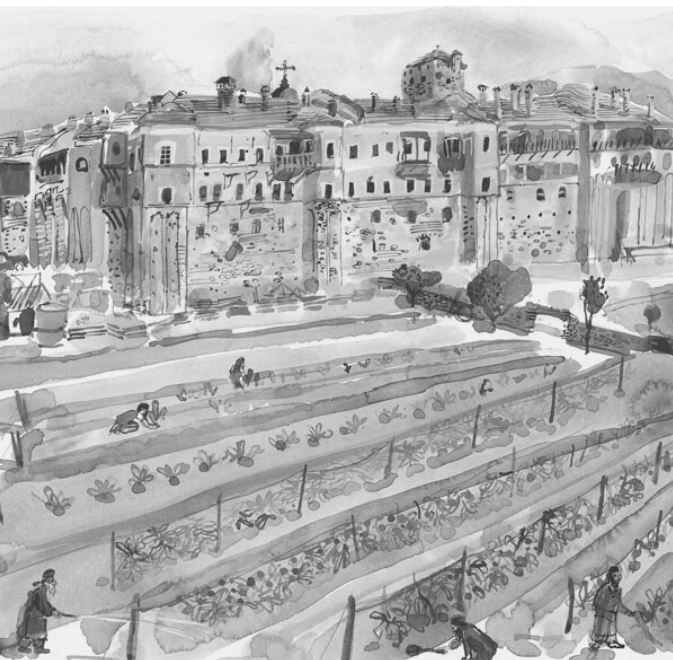


THE SUMMIT OF DESIRE: SAINT PORPHYRIOS ON LOVE FOR CHRIST

Christ is the summit of desire; there is nothing higher. All sensible things lead to satiety, but with God there is no satiety. He is everything. God is the summit of desire. No other joy, no other beauty, nothing else can rival Him. What is higher than the highest? Love for Christ is something else. It is without end, without satiety. It gives life; it gives strength; it gives health; it gives, gives, and gives. And the more it gives, the more the person wishes to fall in love. Human love and passion, by contrast, may be destructive and even drive a person mad. When we love Christ, all other loves abate. Other loves have a point of satiety. The love of Christ has no point of satiety. Fleshly love has a point of satiety. Thereafter jealousy and disgruntlement may set in, and may even lead to murder. Love in Christ knows no alteration. Worldly love remains for a time, and is gradually extinguished, whereas divine love continually grows and deepens. Every other kind of love can lead a person to despair. Divine eros, however, raises us up into the sphere of God; it bestows on us serenity, joy and fullness. Other pleasures enervate us, but of this pleasure we can never have enough. It is an insatiable pleasure, which you never tire of. It is the highest good.



We should regard Christ as our friend. He is our friend. He asserts this Himself when he says, “you are my friends...” (John 15:14). Let us stretch out to Him and approach Him as a friend. Do we fall? Do we sin? With familiarity, love and trust let us run to Him – not with fear that he will punish us, but with confidence which we derive from the sense of being with a friend. We can say to Him, ‘I have fallen, forgive me.’ At the same time, however, let us have the sense that He loves us and that He receives us with tenderness and love and forgives us. Don’t let sin separate us from Christ. When we believe that He loves us and we love Him, we don’t feel strangers and distanced from Him, even when we sin. We have secured His love, and however we behave, we know that He loves us.



– Saint Porphyrios



Diocesan PILGRIMAGE

TO ST.OLYMPIA MISSION, POTSDAM, NY

On Monday and Tuesday, July 24-25, Archbishop Michael invites all to join a Diocesan pilgrimage to Saint Olympia Mission, in Potsdam / Norwood, NY. The mission is the parish located the furthest north in our Diocese, and it is the only parish in the U.S. named for Saint Olympia, whose Feast Day is July 25. The mission community recently moved into their own church building and are eager for pilgrims to “come and see!”

VESPERS: MONDAY, JULY 24 @ 6PM FOLLOWED BY
A MEAL.

DIVINE LITURGY (WITH HIS EMINENCE):
TUESDAY, JULY 25TH @ 9:30AM. FOLLOWED BY A
LUNCHEON.

34 NORTH MAIN ST., NORWOOD, NY

SAINTOLYMPIAORTHODOXCHURCH.ORG

JULY 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>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:15am Ridesharing 8:30am Baptism of Lauren 8:45am Holy Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 11:55am Annual Meeting 12pm CFD Prep 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry Delivery 4:30pm Family Dinner 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Sub-deacon Training 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm VIGIL Parish Feast 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Parish Feast/Div Lit 11:30am Festival Potluck 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Feast Day in Lansing 12pm Parish Life Conf. 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prophora 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 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry Delivery 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Fireworks Watch Pa 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Divine Liturgy 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>9</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 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Anthony of the Kiev Caves 9am Food Pantry Delivery 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Divine Liturgy 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm Fr. Ambrose @ St. Andrew's Camp 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 12:30pm Parish Council 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry Delivery 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Seraphim of Sarov 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Div Liturgy @ St. And 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>23</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 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry Delivery 2pm Family Dinner 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dormition of St. Anna 6pm Vespers 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Jacob of Alaska Divine Liturgy 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Panteleimon 6pm Akathist to St. Panteleim 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>30</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 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry Delivery 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dormition Fast Prophora Baking 12pm From the Holy Fathers 6pm Vespers 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Divine Liturgy 12pm From the Holy Fathers 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm From the Holy Fathers 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm VIGIL for Trans güratio 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal