

The Enlightener

SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH



Now all is filled with light! *Christ is Risen!*

As St. John Damascene says: "Now all is filled with light: Heaven and earth and the lower regions. Let all creation celebrate the rising of Christ. In Him we are established!" Thank God for a truly incredible Holy week and Pascha! We warmly welcome the Robinsons into our Orthodox Family. I thank the choir, the many readers, and the countless helpers behind the scenes. This was a parish wide effort and celebration! The atmosphere of Pascha was festive and life-transforming. May Christ our true God grant us all union and salvation in the radiant splendor of His Eternal Resurrection! Christ is Risen! - Fr. Ambrose



Upcoming Events & News

Parish Hall Presentation to the Parish Council

On Thursday, May 18th at 6pm down in the parlor basement, Doug Selby will be giving a power point presentation on the recommendations that the Hall Brainstorming Committee has been working on for many months. All are invited to attend the presentation.



Ladies Night

On Friday, April 26th at 6:30pm. The ladies get together for time of fellowship. All are invited both young and seasoned. See Claire Flaherty for details.



Pentecost - Green Sunday. Praying & Picnic at Ss Peter and Paul Cemetery.

On Sunday, June 4th we will visit our two cemeteries and offer prayers for the reposed. Come and join us for a parish picnic at Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery! Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery at 12:15pm and St. Michael's Cemetery at 2:45pm. Bring chairs, a picnic lunch, watermelon, sandwiches, chips, refreshments, drinks....



Community Family Dinner

Monday, May 22nd 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!





PARISH FAMILY GAME NIGHT ON THE LAWN

Board Games, Volleyball, Croquet

On the Lawn at SS. Peter and Paul

**Friday, June 2nd
5pm to 8pm**



PARISH FEAST DAY

ARCHBISHOP
MICHAEL
SERVING WITH
US!

ORDINATION OF
READER JOHN TO
THE SUB-
DIACONATE.

JUNE 28-29

WEDNESDAY EVENING VIGIL @ 5:30PM

THURSDAY MORNING DIVINE LITURGY @ 9:30AM
FOLLOWED BY FESTAL POTLUCK LUNCH ON THE
LAWN.

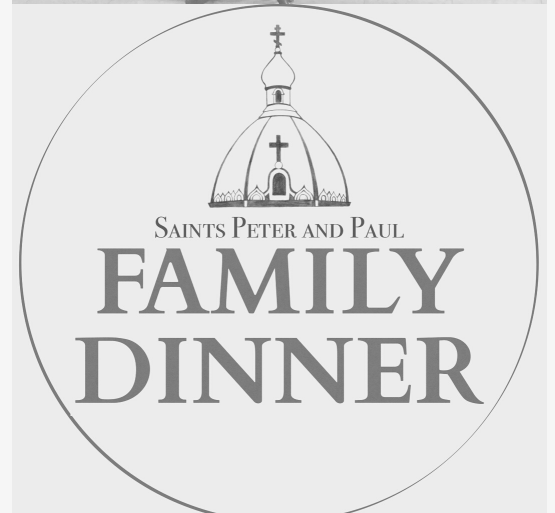
TAKE THE MORNING OFF OF WORK AND JOIN US!

THE GROWTH OF THE FAMILY DINNERS

When we first started the Family Dinners back on December of 2021, we served roughly 60 meals in a cold and winter night. Drive-thru was all that we did at the time, but we immediately left the evening hopeful and eager to see what was next. Those who would come to the dinners were mainly elderly couples from the Tipp Hill Community, a few younger singles, and a few families. Since we are located on the top of Tipp Hill, we did not have a lot of single homeless that would walk up the hill in the snow; rather, neighbors from the Tipp Hill community would take meals personally and drop them off to those living on the streets.

In the spring/summer of 2022, we longed to offer a dine-in option for our guests so that we could get to know them by name, spend a few minutes dialoging with them and hearing their stories. It seemed that every time we wanted to have the Family Dinner on the lawn it would rain. There was one dinner where we had a tent set up and a few brave guests did in fact sit under the tent in the rain. It was not ideal, but it was a start. We then tried to schedule Jenni Fouch to come and play for the community only having to postpone many times due to rain. Later on in the summer of 2022 we finally had a beautiful and sunny day on the lawn and were able to offer music and dinner. It was a wonderful day! The kids were running around and the sun was shining!

We knew that the dine-in option had to continue in the rain, snow, or sunshine, so we began to open up the lower basement to guests and sometimes we would have musical accompaniment ranging from a barbershop quartet, to a harpist, to the Jenni and John duet. From this point on we knew that having a dine-in option was the future to our Family Dinners. In the winter of 2022, once we partnered with Frazer school with our Food Recovery Project, we then began to see an increase in larger families with children who would come to the Family Dinners. We are excited to now continue to see where this project goes and we look forward to getting to know our community families and neighbors better. We invite you to also join us in this wonderful effort!





PRAYER: THE WAY OF CREATION BY ELDER ZACHARIAS OF ESSEX

Prayer is the spiritual man's work par excellence, by which the fact of his creation "in the image and after the likeness" of God is brought to light. Aside: We pray because we are created "in the image and after the likeness of God" (Gen. 1:26). End of aside: So intimately is man's union with God realized in prayer, that he mirrors the divine perfection in his corporeal existence, and reflects it in his imitation of God's life.



Prayer signifies man's turning towards God, the creature's reaching forth to receive the light of the Uncreated. As bearing within himself God's creative breath, and by the invocation of His name, man attracts God's "visitation". The man of prayer becomes a "temple of the God" (1 Cor. 3:16). God turns His eyes and heart towards him perpetually, and seals him with His name (cf. 1Kgs. 9:3). This reciprocal action of man's turning towards God, and of God's turning towards man, effects a personal relationship or communion between them. For man's part, this relationship is deep and life-giving. Prior to the Fall, this relationship was bright and direct. God, as St. Gregory Palamas writes, "appeared visibly before man... that [he] might imitate Him." When, however, man lost the vision of God, He Himself came into the world as man. As a result, prayer is the most precious and indispensable means for man's communion with God. Fr. Sophrony defines prayer as "infinite creation", since by means of it man is granted the privilege of becoming a collaborator with God in realizing his personhood. He received the grace to reveal himself as effecting the perfection of the hypostatic principle in him. Aside: What does Fr. Sophrony mean by "hypostatic principle" and "person"? Though he says that the person cannot be defined, we could say that personhood is the gift of God to man, by which he possesses his nature. In more simple words, when we have even the least contrition from the Holy Spirit, we exercise control over all our senses, and on every movement of our heart and mind; thus is man quickened by the grace of God. When this gift of God is perfected in man, through this gift he possesses his whole nature. This is personhood. I have not defined it, but rather described it. End of aside. Man receives the grace to reveal himself as effecting the perfection of the hypostatic principle in him. Aside: The hypostatic principle is this gift that God gave us to be able to embrace all the

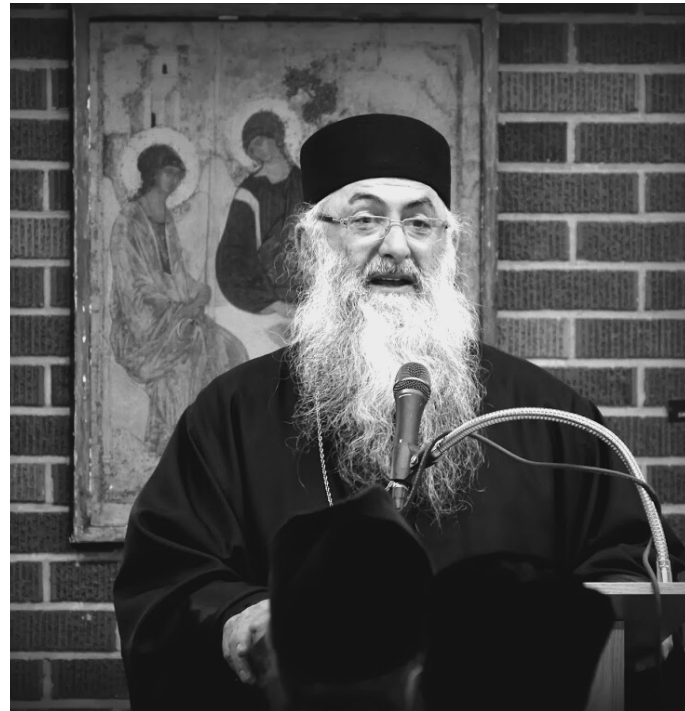
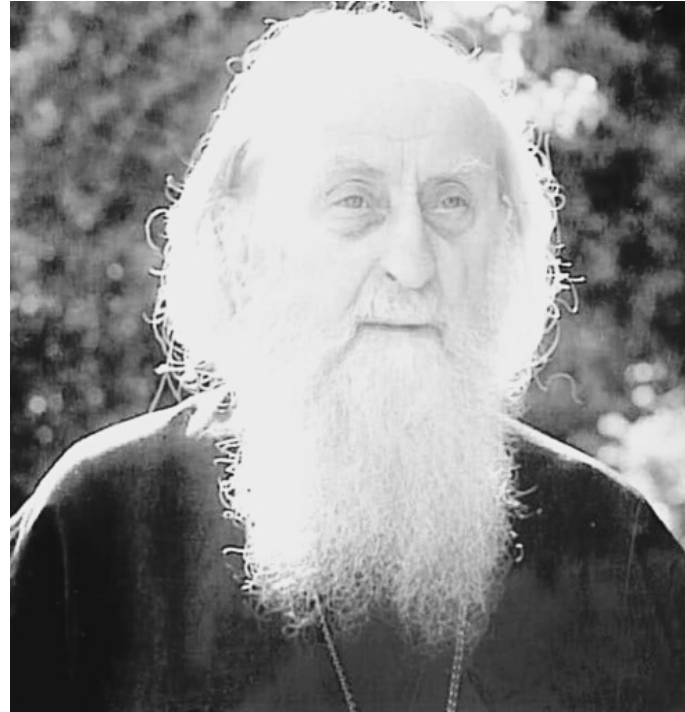


divine Being (of course, in its energetic form) and all the human being. End of aside. By means of prayer, the energy of the true God penetrates man's being and endows him with the strength to strive for the fulfillment of his calling. The longer he remains in prayer, the greater is his resistance to whatever corrupts and hinders the flow of its action. Aside: Prayer generates prayer. End of aside. The work of this striving is sublime and creative, full of wisdom and inspiration, beauty and majesty.

In the heart, which is the place where God's communion with man is cultivated, the Spirit of God is revealed, operates and prays. the heart's opening up to prayer heals man's personhood. Man's mind is concentrated in, and becomes united with, the heart. Thus the heart is enlarged to contain all the fullness of Christ's love. Aside: I like this word "enlarged"; it is from St. Paul (cf. 2 cor. 6:11). He keeps on saying to the Corinthians, "[Brethren] be ye also enlarged" (2 Cor. 6:13). End of aside. Consequently, the entire struggle in prayer has as its aim the discovery and conquest of the heart. The way towards achieving this is impeded only by vainglory. Aside: St. Silouan says again and again that humility is of the greatest importance, because pride hinders love. End of aside.

Powers of cosmic dimensions are ranged against prayer (cf. Eph. 6:12), but so too is the very make-up of fallen man. When, however, resistance against these destructive forces deepens, and the gift of prayer from on High is increased, then dawns also the joy of hope in Christ's supracosmic victory. But in order for man to attain to the perfection of this kind of prayer, which Fr. Sophrony defines as the restoration of the created world from its fall, he is subjected to great tension and endures multitudinous alternating states. He fluctuates from states of spiritual euphoria to a sense of inner aridity, and from an increase to a diminution of his "prayer-strength". These fluctuations and states, through which the man of prayer must pass by means of perseverance and with his whole heart, lead him to the precious knowledge of the mystery of the paths to salvation. Aside: Fr. Sophrony often speaks about the "mystery of the ways of salvation." That is to say, for each person there is a unique path towards God, and those who are spiritual should know this mystery, and dispense for their brethren the knowledge of these unique paths. End of aside: But above all, these fluctuations and states lead him to the priceless experience of humility. Knowledge and experience exercise man's mind and heart to enable him to discern those things which are pleasing to God, and to keep his attention and desire turned towards them.

Read more... Elder Zacharias, *The Enlargement of the Heart*, Mount Tabor Publishing, 2006, pp. 114-116+



MAY 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 Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 11:50am Church School 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry Delivery 6pm By-Law Meeting 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Divine Liturgy 10am Street Ministry Prep & 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am SU Food Procession 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Family Breakfast 3:30pm Foundations Class 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>7</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 11:50am Church School 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry Delivery 6pm By-Law Mtg 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Midfeast Div Liturgy 10am Street Ministry Prep & 6pm Budget Mtg 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery (SU) 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am SU Food Procession 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm Foundations Q & A 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTHERS DAY No Church School 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Food Pantry Delivery 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Divine Liturgy 10am Street Ministry Prep & 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Parish Council Mtg 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yng Adult Retreat 10:30am SU Food Procession 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yng Adult Retreat 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 11:50am Church School 12:30pm Parish Council 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFD 9am Food Pantry Delivery 6pm By-Law Mtg 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Paschal Matins 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Paschal Div Lit 10am Street Ministry Prep & 5:30pm VIGIL for Ascension 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascension 9am Festal Div Liturgy 10:30am Festal Lunch 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am SU Food Procession 6:30pm Ladies' Night 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm Foundations Q & A 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Church School 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Parish BBQ 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Day Pilgrimage 9am Food Pantry Delivery 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Vespers 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Divine Liturgy 10am Street Ministry Prep & 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9pm Panera Pick Up 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am SU Food Procession 5pm Parish Family Dinner / O 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Memorial Div Liturgy 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal