

# The

# Enlightener

SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH



OCTOBER 2023  
VOL.45 ISSUE 10

## Many Wonderful Things

The month of September saw a welcoming of many things. We had our first formal Men's Fellowship Gathering, we had our first educational trip to the Gressel's Farm, we welcomed Olga (Marlee) Belser into the Orthodox Family, and we added the Country Fair to our annual Chicken Dinner event. As someone said at the Men's Fellowship Night, "we have high quality people here in the parish." All this couldn't have been done without the love and care of the entire parish. I thank God for you all and may Christ continue to guide His Holy Church towards further union with Him and with each other. - Fr. Ambrose



# An Inspiring Event

The Chicken Dinner and Country Fair was truly an inspiring event. In fact, a monumental celebration that brought over 40 volunteers together to offer to the community not just good food - although that was true - but an offering of ourselves as a parish family to them. One of the most inspiring aspects of the entire event was the teamwork that was involved from every aspect of the parish: from the inquirers, all the way to those who have been at this parish their entire life. It was a total parish effort, a beautiful symphony of cooperation, common vision, and execution. May this spirit of oneness continue, now and forever.





# Afternoon At The Farm

WRITTEN BY  
FRANK SIMSER

A huge thank you to the Gressel's for opening the farm to us.

For those that couldn't be with us:

- We learned about how the meat chickens are raised, including how a chicken tractor run works.
- We learned how the green houses work, what's grown in them, and the benefits they provide over traditional field growing.
- We learned about composting, what makes a good compost pile, the science of proper compost temperature and composition, and what a "young" compost pile looks like compared to compost ready to go back to feed new crops.
- We met the goats and petted an egg laying chicken.
- We harvested some carrots, cucumbers, dill, and onions then cleaned them and prepared a cucumber tomato salad and a dill dip for the carrots.
- We established that Father Ambrose and Natalie Pine are the undefeated cornhole champions. (For now!)

**“The best part of this project was the teamwork and so many coming together as one to make this happen.”**

-Nick Gressel

# The Sealing of the Parking Lot



After a very busy weekend at the Chicken Dinner and Country Fair, several people stayed to help prep for the re-sealing of the parking lot. Led by Nick Gressel and Pete Sahn, on Monday morning, a team of 12+ people came to seal and stripe the entire parking lot. Nick G, Pete Sahn, Jessica Gressel, SubDcn John, Brendan Cleghorn, Vinnie, and few other helpers: Aaron, Austin, Ben, plus Jessica Gressel's Dad. They did a wonderful job and saved the church thousands of dollars by doing this work in-house vs. contracting it out. I ask God's blessings for them and may this spirit of parish teamwork continue to grow!

- Fr. Ambrose

MEN'S PILGRIMAGE TO  
**ST. NEKTARIOS  
MONASTERY**



**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25TH -  
THURSDAY, OCT. 26TH**

**PLEASE RSVP AT THE  
QR CODE BELOW:**



WE CAN BRING UP TO 10  
YOUNG MEN, TEENAGERS,  
AND/ OR ADULTS. WE'LL ALL  
CARPOOL TOGETHER. WE'LL  
LEAVE FROM THE CHURCH AT  
8AM ON WEDNESDAY. SPEND  
THE NIGHT AT ST. NEKTARIOS,  
AND THEN RETURN ON  
THURSDAY AFTERNOON  
PLEASE BRING A MONETARY  
DONATION FOR THE  
MONASTERY.



YOU ARE INVITED TO  
JOIN US FOR

**A PECK OF FUN:  
A PARISH TRIP  
TO PICK APPLES**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH AT 11AM.**

MEET @ NAVARINO ORCHARD  
3655 CHERRY VALLEY TPKE  
SYRACUSE, NY 13215

WE'LL COME BACK TO THE CHURCH AND MAKE SOMETHING FOR COFFEE-  
HOUR WITH THE APPLES.

YOU ARE INVITED TO



# THANKS GIVING

CELEBRATION

WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF YOU COULD JOIN US FOR A  
FESTIVE FEAST AND  
A MOMENT OF GRATITUDE FOR OUR VETERANS.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH**  
**AFTER DIVINE LITURGY**

401 HAMILTON ST.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST



# FALL FESTIVAL OF SAINTS

DRESS UP AS YOUR  
FAVORITE SAINT  
AND CHILI COOK OFF

6:30pm

@ Frank and Connie Simser's House  
29 Naylor Circle, Baldwinsville

# TOWNHALL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18TH @ 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**

## **BEAUTIFYING OUR WORSHIP**

### **NURTURING THE PARISH FAMILY**

- SENIOR MOMENT LUNCH
- ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER
- ORDINATION FESTAL LUNCH - DEC. 17TH
- STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION
- PARISH HALL AND MASTER PLAN
- UPDATED PARISH BY-LAWS

### **NOURISHING THE COMMUNITY FAMILY**

- MAKING FAMILY DINNER PRESENTATIONS TO OTHER CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### **IMPROVING EDUCATION**

- THE VISION OF A PARISH LENDING LIBRARY

### **AFFECTING ALL THE ABOVE**

- CHICKEN DINNER AND COUNTRY FAIR RECAP
- HOLIDAY COOKIE WALK AND PIEROGIE SALE FUNDRAISER IN DECEMBER
- HISTORICAL STATUS PRESENTATION
- ELEVATOR

# THE ORTHODOX VENERATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

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by St. John Maximovich

The Orthodox Church teaches about the Mother of God from Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture and daily it glorifies her in its churches, asking for her help and defense. “It is essential for us to confess that the Holy Ever-Virgin Mary is actually Theotokos (Birth-giver of God)...For those who deny that the Holy Virgin is actually Theotokos are no longer believers, but disciples of the Pharisees and Saducces” St. Ephraim the Syrian.

From Tradition, it is known that Mary was the daughter of aged Joachim and Anna, that Joachim descended from the royal line of David and Anna from the priestly line. Behold, when once being disdained by the Hebrews for their barrenness, they both in grief of soul were offering prayers to God—Joachim on a mountain after a priest did not want to offer his sacrifice in the Temple, and Anna in her own garden weeping over her barrenness—there appeared to them an angel who informed them they would have a daughter. Overjoyed, they promised to give their child to God. When Mary was quite small, she manifested the best qualities of soul. When she was three years old, her parents fulfilling their promise, led little Mary to the Temple in Jerusalem; by herself, she climbed the high steps and by a revelation from God, she was led into the Holy of Holies, by the High Priest Zacharias, St John the Forerunner’s father. She was settled in the quarters of the virgins which existed in the Temple but she spent so much time in prayer in the Holy of Holies that one might say that she lived there. Being submissive and obedient to all, she offended no one, did not say a cruel word to anyone, was friendly to all and did not allow any unclean thought (St Ambrose of Milan). “Despite the righteousness and the immaculateness of the life which the Mother of God led, sin and eternal death manifested their presence in her. They could not but be manifested: Such is the precise and faithful teaching of the Orthodox Church concerning the Mother of God.” (St Ignatius Brianchaninov) She was not a stranger to sinful temptations. “God alone is without sin.” (St Ambrose) The Virgin Mary, having given herself entirely to God, even though she repulsed from herself







every impulse to sin, still felt the weakness of human nature more powerfully than others and ardently desired the coming of the Savior. In her humility she considered herself unworthy to be even the servant-girl of the Virgin who was to give Him birth. So that nothing might distract her from prayer and heedfulness to herself, Mary gave to God a vow not to marry in order to please only Him. Being betrothed to the elderly Joseph when her age no longer allowed her to remain in the Temple, she settled in his house in Nazareth. The Archangel Gabriel brought her the good tidings of the birth from her of the Son Most High. "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women...the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:28-35)



Mary told no one of the appearance of the angel but the angel himself revealed to Joseph Mary's miraculous conception from the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18-25) After the Nativity of Christ, a multitude of heavenly host announced it to the shepherds. The shepherd, coming to worship the newborn one, said that they had heard of Him. Having previously endured suspicion in silence, Mary also listened in silence and kept in her heart the saying concerning her Son. (Luke 2:8-19) She heard 40 days later Symeon's prayer of praise and the prophecy concerning the weapon which would pierce her soul. Later she saw how Jesus advanced in wisdom; she heard Him at the age of twelve teaching in the Temple and everything she kept in her heart. (Luke 2:21-51) Christ Jesus had concern also over the honor of His Mother, but much more over the salvation of Her soul and the good of men for which He had become clothed in the flesh." St John Chrysostom Mary understood this and heard the word of God and kept it. (Luke 11:27, 28) As no other person, she had the same feelings as Christ (Philippians 2:5) uncomplainingly bearing the grief of a mother when she saw her Son persecuted and suffering. Rejoicing in the day of the Resurrection, on the day of Pentecost she was clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49). The Holy Spirit Who descended upon her taught her all things (John 14:26) and instructed her in all truth (John 16:13). Merciful and full of love, she manifests her love towards her Son and God in love for the human race. She intercedes for us before the merciful One and going about the earth, she helps mankind. Our holy Mother of God as experienced all the difficulties of earthly life, the intercessor of the Christian race sees every tear, hears every groan and entreaty directed to her. "Joy of all who sorrow and intercessor for the offended, feeder of the hungry, consolation of travelers, harbor of the storm-tossed, visitation of the sick, protection and intercessor for the infirm, staff of old age, you are the Mother of God on High, O most pure one."



# October 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Prophora Baking <b>8:15am</b> Ridesharing <b>8:45am</b> Holy Confessions <b>9am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>9:10am</b> 3rd & 6th Hour <b>9:30am</b> Divine Liturgy <b>11:15am</b> Agape Meal	2 <b>9am</b> Food Pantry Delivery <b>6pm</b> Vespers	3 <b>9am</b> Divine Liturgy	4 Fr. Ambrose & Family Away <b>8pm</b> OCF @ SU	5 <b>9pm</b> Panera Pick Up <b>9pm</b> Food Recovery	6 <b>10am</b> Outreach Street Food	7 <b>3:30pm</b> Foundations <b>5pm</b> Great Vespers <b>5:45pm</b> Choir Rehearsal
8 <b>8:15am</b> Ridesharing <b>8:45am</b> Holy Confessions <b>9am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>9:10am</b> 3rd & 6th Hour <b>9:30am</b> Divine Liturgy <b>11:15am</b> Agape Meal <b>11:30am</b> Church School L.2b	9 <b>9am</b> Food Pantry Delivery	10 <b>6pm</b> Vespers	11 <b>9am</b> Divine Liturgy <b>6pm</b> Finance Team Mig <b>8pm</b> OCF @ SU	12 <b>9pm</b> Panera Pick Up <b>9pm</b> Food Recovery	13 <b>10am</b> Outreach Street Food	14 <b>11am</b> Apple Picking <b>3:30pm</b> Foundations <b>5pm</b> Great Vespers <b>5:45pm</b> Choir Rehearsal
15 <b>8:15am</b> Ridesharing <b>8:45am</b> Holy Confessions <b>9am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>9:10am</b> 3rd & 6th Hour <b>9:30am</b> Divine Liturgy <b>11:15am</b> Agape Meal <b>11:30am</b> Church School L.3 <b>12:30pm</b> Parish Council	16 <b>9am</b> Food Pantry Delivery	17 <b>6pm</b> Vespers	18 <b>9am</b> Divine Liturgy <b>6pm</b> Town Hall Meeting <b>8pm</b> OCF @ SU	19 <b>9pm</b> Panera Pick Up <b>9pm</b> Food Recovery	20 <b>10am</b> Outreach Street Food	21 Diocesan Church School Wor <b>3:30pm</b> Foundations <b>5pm</b> Great Vespers <b>5:45pm</b> Choir Rehearsal
22 <b>8:15am</b> Ridesharing <b>8:45am</b> Holy Confessions <b>9am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>9:10am</b> 3rd & 6th Hour <b>9:30am</b> Divine Liturgy <b>11:15am</b> Agape Meal <b>11:30am</b> Church School L.3b	23 <b>9am</b> Food Pantry Delivery <b>4:30pm</b> Family Dinner <b>6pm</b> Vespers	24 <b>9am</b> Divine Liturgy	25 <b>8am</b> Men's Pilgrim. <b>8pm</b> OCF @ SU	26 <b>9pm</b> Panera Pick Up <b>9pm</b> Food Recovery	27 <b>10am</b> Outreach Street Food <b>6:30pm</b> Ladies Night	28 <b>3:30pm</b> Foundations <b>5pm</b> Great Vespers <b>5:45pm</b> Choir Rehearsal
29 <b>8:15am</b> Ridesharing <b>8:45am</b> Holy Confessions <b>9am</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>9:10am</b> 3rd & 6th Hour <b>9:30am</b> Divine Liturgy <b>11:15am</b> Agape Meal <b>11:30am</b> Church School L.4	30 <b>9am</b> Food Pantry Delivery	31 <b>6pm</b> Vespers <b>6:30pm</b> Fall Festival of Saint	1 Prophora Baking <b>9am</b> Divine Liturgy <b>8pm</b> OCF @ SU	2 <b>9pm</b> Panera Pick Up <b>9pm</b> Food Recovery	3 <b>10am</b> Outreach Street Food	4 <b>3:30pm</b> Foundations <b>5pm</b> Great Vespers <b>5:45pm</b> Choir Rehearsal