

The Enlightener

SS. PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Freedom in Christ

Each of us has the gift of freewill, meaning we can freely direct the powers of our nature towards God. In this reality lies our true freedom. Freedom not as the world knows it, but freedom to love Christ. In other words, nothing can possibly inhibit us from directing our love toward Him - neither sin, nor death, nor the enemy, nor life's circumstances. Thus, we are free, not to relish in sin, but to relish in the sweet freedom of loving God and neighbor. True freedom in Christ is found in the willing sacrifice of our inner life to move toward the commandments of Christ. For God to coerce his beloved creation to love Him would be bondage and not freedom; therefore, freedom is an inner willingness, from the deep heart, to consecrate ourselves and each other to Christ our God.

—With love, Fr. Ambrose



Upcoming Events & News

TWO MAJOR FEASTS

Vigil and Feast Day for the Nativity of the Theotokos (Sept. 7th and 8th) and the Exaltation of the Cross (Sept. 13th and 14th)! Come and join us! We hope to have a potluck lunch following each Festal Divine Liturgy.



LADIES NIGHT - SEPTEMBER 15TH

On Friday, September 15th, Matushka will be hosting a Ladies Night here at the rectory, beginning at 6pm. The plan is to get together and work on things for the Chicken Dinner. All ladies are welcome. Please bring a side, drinks, desserts.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP PIZZA NIGHT - SEPT. 28TH

On Thursday, Sept. 28th, we plan to have our very first Men's Fellowship Pizza Night. Men of all ages are welcome to attend. It will take place here at the Church starting at 6pm.



Tipp Hill CHICKEN DINNER & COUNTRY FAIR



FREE ENTRY

SATURDAY
SEPT. 30TH
12PM-5PM

\$15 DINNER
1/2 CHICKEN & SIDES

Events & Activities

CHICKEN DINNER - PASTURE-RAISED
1/2 CHICKEN FROM
SAINT FIACRES FARMS
AND MAZZEY'S MEATS
PLUS SIDES FOR \$15



CONTRA DANCING @ 1:30PM
WITH CALLER BOB NICHOLSON

SWING DANCING @ 3:15PM

HAND-MADE CRAFT VENDORS

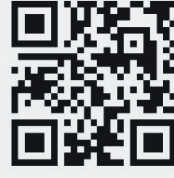
BOUNCE HOUSE, SACK RACES,
TUG-OF-WAR,
DONUT-ON-A-STRING GAMES

GAME BOOTHS WITH TREATS

COTTON CANDY, BAKED GOODS

GIFT AUCTION RAFFLE

View More Here:



RAFFLE TICKETS:

TIER 1 PRIZES: \$10 FOR 25 TICKETS
TIER 2 PRIZES: \$15 FOR 25 TICKETS
TIER 3: \$5 PER TICKET OR \$12 FOR 3

401 HAMILTON ST.

SSPETERANDPAULSYRACUSE.COM/FAIR



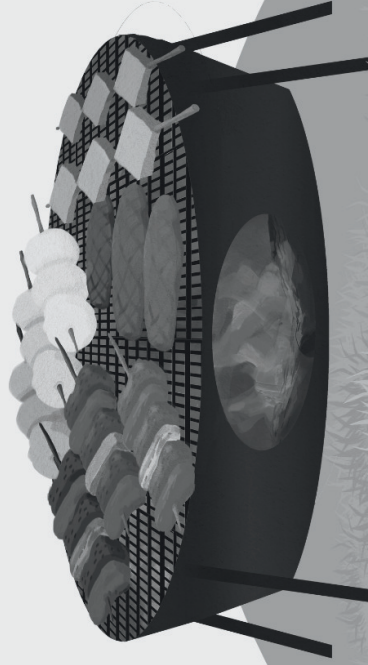
PAN-ORTHODOX *Youth Picnic*

All Orthodox youth and their families are invited to a Pan-Orthodox event! BBQ, kick ball, volleyball, playground, fellowship.

Sunday, September 10

**1pm to 5pm @ Green Lakes State Park
At the Lakeview Picnic Area.**

Entrance is free.



Bring sides, desserts, drinks



SS PETER AND PAUL

*Church School
Begins:*

**Sunday
Sept.
10th**



TOWNHALL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 20TH @ 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

- (IN PROGRESS) THREE HOLY YOUTHS DOOR

NURTURING THE PARISH FAMILY

- SECURITY PLAN
- ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER
- FOOD BANK PARTNERSHIP

NOURISHING THE COMMUNITY FAMILY

- FAMILY DINNERS / FOOD RECOVERY / ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OUTREACH LATEST

IMPROVING EDUCATION

- UPDATED CHURCH SCHOOL FORMAT

AFFECTING ALL THE ABOVE

- CHICKEN DINNER AND COUNTRY FAIR LATEST
- (IN PROGRESS) HISTORICAL STATUS
- PRE-DEVELOPMENT MEETING WITH THE CITY REPORT FOR THE CHURCH HALL CENTER
- SEALING OF THE PARKING LOT.
- (IN PROGRESS) HOW TO IMPROVE UTILITY COSTS.
- ELEVATOR FIX COSTS



ON THE CROSS BY ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

The Cross of Christ was forecast and mystically predicted from of old and no-one has ever become reconciled to God without the power of the Cross. After the transgression of our forefathers in God's paradise, through the tree, on the one hand sin spread and, on the other we died, having suffered the death of the soul- separation from God- before that of the body. God is spirit and goodness and virtue and our spirit is the image and likeness of His. If we're to be renewed and reconciled to God in spirit, sin must be eradicated. This is Christ's Cross.



Many friends of God were in evidence before God and the law, even prior to the appearance of the Cross. David says: 'But, God, your friends have been greatly honoured by me' (Ps. 139, 17 [Septuagint]). How then were there friends of God before the Cross? Because the mystery of the Cross acted within them.

Let's begin first with Abraham. God told him to leave the land of his birth and his family and to go to the land He would show him. He didn't say 'the land I will give you', but 'the land I will show you'. These words bear the mystery of the Cross within them.

After Moses had left Egypt and gone up onto the mountain, God told him to unfasten his sandals from his feet. This is another of God's mysteries. He was to rid himself of the leather footwear through which sin acts and which separated him from the holy ground. He was no longer to live in sin and in the flesh, and life which was opposed to God was to be abandoned and killed off. As Saint Paul puts it, the flesh is to be crucified together with the passions and desires.

Since it's not possible for us to be entirely free of the wicked passions and for the world of sin not to act upon us collectively, unless we rise to the level of contemplation of God, the mystery of God is contemplation of the kind which crucifies to the world those who deserve it. Thus, in the case of Moses, this vision of the flaming but not burning bush was the mystery of the Cross, greater and more perfect than the mystery at the time of Abraham. So was Moses initiated into the mystery of the Cross, but Abraham not?





Abraham was granted the most wonderful vision when he saw the three Persons of God at the Oak of Mamre (Gen. 18, 1), and the mystery of the Cross was active in him when he sacrificed his son, Isaac. Isaac himself was a model of Him Who was nailed to the Cross, because he was obedient to his father unto death, as was Christ. And the ram which was given to Abraham to sacrifice on our behalf, as well as the plant to which it was tied, also contained the mystery of the model of the Cross, which is why it was called 'Selichah', the tree of forgiveness, just as the Cross is called the tree of salvation.

The mystery and model of the Cross also acted in Jacob, Isaac's son, because he increased his flock with wood and water. The wood prefigured the wood of the Cross, while the water foreshadowed holy baptism, which also contains within it the mystery of the Cross. When Jacob prostrated himself at the end of his staff and when he blessed his grandsons (Gen. 48, 9-20), these actions prefigured the Cross even more clearly.



In the same way as the mystery of the Cross acted in Abraham and as his son, Isaac, was a model of Him Who was later crucified, so, too, the mystery of the Cross informed the whole of Jacob's life, and his son, Joseph, was a model of the Divine Word and His later sufferings. Because he, too, was led to the slaughter through envy and, indeed, by his kinsmen after the flesh. He wasn't actually slaughtered, just as Isaac hadn't been, but this is nothing to wonder at, because they were not the truth, but models of the future truth. Slaughter prefigured Christ's suffering in the flesh, while the avoidance of passion foreshadowed the impassivity of the Godhead.

Let us return to Moses, who was himself saved with wood and water, when he was exposed in a basket on the waters of the Nile. (As we've said, wood and water prefigure the Cross and baptism). But Moses went further in foreshadowing most clearly the model and even the shape of the Cross and our salvation through it. Because when he stood with the rod and crossed his hands over it, he routed the enemy (Ex. 17, 8). Moreover, when he placed the bronze serpent lengthwise on a standard, raising it as a model of the Cross, he told those Jews who'd been bitten by snakes to look at it and they would be cured of their snake bites.

There's no time to explain how the mystery of the Cross acted in so many other people, such as Joshua and the judges and prophets who came after him, David and those came later, who cut off rivers, stopped the sun, destroyed the cities of the impious, were victorious in war, avoided death by the sword, or fire or lions, chastised kings, raised the dead, caused droughts and then, when they wanted, brought rain, and all the other things mentioned by Saint Paul regarding faith in the Cross, in particular, which for us who are saved is the power of God, but foolishness for those who are lost.



Source: <https://pemptousia.com/2017/09/sermon-on-the-precious-and-life-giving-cross-part-1/>

More at the above link

September 2023

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 12:30pm Family Pool Party	28 St. Job of Pochaev 9am Food Pantry Delivery 4:30pm Family Dinner	29 Beholding of St. John 9am Divine Liturgy 12pm From the Holy Fathers	30 12pm From the Holy Fathers 6pm Church School Teacher	31 12pm From the Holy Fathers 5pm Mental Health Training 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery	1 Prophora Baking 8:30am Mental Health Traini	2 5pm Great Vespers
3 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 4pm Diocesan Clergy Picnic	4 9am Food Pantry Delivery	6pm Vespers	6	7 5:30pm VIGIL for Nativity 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery	8 Nativity of Theotokos 9am Divine Liturgy for Natvi	9 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
10 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 11:30am 1st Church School 1pm Pan-Orthodox Youth Pic	11 9am Food Pantry Delivery	6pm Stewardship Mtg.	13 5:30pm VIGIL	14 Exalt. of the Cross 9am Divine Liturgy 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery	15 6pm Ladies Night	16 3:30pm Foundations 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
17 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 3pm Gressel Farm Event	18 9am Food Pantry Delivery	6pm Vespers	20 9am Divine Liturgy 6pm Town Hall	21 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery	22 6pm Vespers for St. John	23 3:30pm Foundations 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal
24 8:15am Ridesharing 8:45am Holy Confessions 9am Choir Rehearsal 9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:15am Agape Meal 11:30am Church School L.2	25 9am Food Pantry Delivery 4:30pm Family Dinner	6pm Vespers	27 9am Divine Liturgy	28 6pm Men's Fellowship Pizza 9pm Panera Pick Up 9pm Food Recovery	29 6pm Chicken D. Setup	30 11:30am Chicken Dinner and 5pm Great Vespers 5:45pm Choir Rehearsal