

28th Sunday After Pentecost

December 18th -December 24th, 2023

December 18, 2023 Monday

4:30pm - 6pm Family Dinner w/ harpist

December 19, 2023 Tuesday

12pm Synaxis

6pm Vespers

December 20, 2023 Wednesday

9am Divine Liturgy

12pm Synaxis

6pm Vespers

December 21, 2023 Thursday

9am Divine Liturgy

12pm Synaxis

6:30pm Ladies Night

December 22, 2023 Friday

10am Outreach Street Food Ministry

6pm Royal Hours

December 23, 2023 Saturday

9am Divine Liturgy

5pm Great Vespers

5:45pm Choir Rehearsal

December 24, 2023 Sunday

8:15am Ridesharing

8:45am Holy Confessions

9am Choir Rehearsal

9:10am 3rd & 6th Hour

9:30am Divine Lit. St. John Chrys

11am Vespers

11:15am Agape Meal

4pm Christmas Eve Dinner

5:15pm Nativity VIGIL



December 25, 2023 Monday

9:10am Hours

9:30am Nativity Festal Liturgy

St. Basil

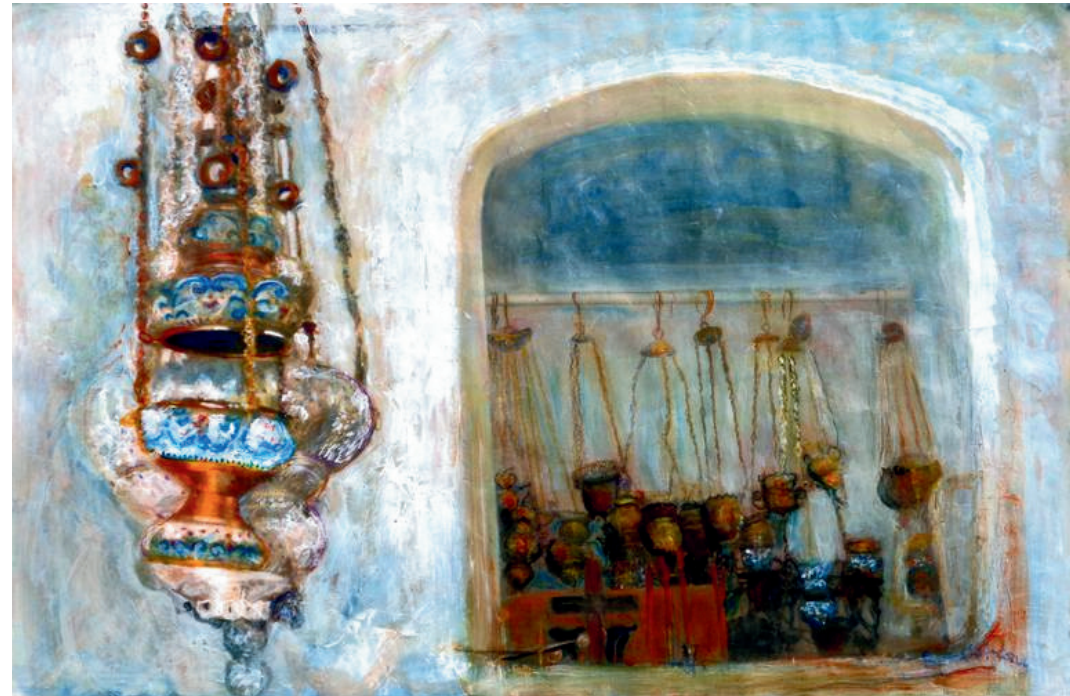
11am Festal Potluck, Gift

Exchange, and Singing of

Carols

The Weekly

Nativity Homily by St. Philaret



Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

401 Hamilton Street
Syracuse, NY 13204

Fr. Ambrose Inlow's Cell: (315) 418-5738
Rectory: (315) 468-0442
sspeterandpaulsyracuse.com

Announcements



Welcome all visitors!

Please join us after the service for Coffee Hour. Please introduce yourself to Fr. Ambrose and others as we would love to meet you! We are delighted to have you here with us.

Please fill out your information at <https://www.sspeterandpaulsyracuse.com/new> as we would love to keep you connected with our events.

If you are not Orthodox Christian, please do not approach the chalice during the distribution of Holy Communion. Please, however, come up and kiss the cross at the end of the service and introduce yourself to Fr. Ambrose.

An agape meal rotation schedule is being put together. If you would like to join the rotation please see Jessica Gressel. Any help with the Coffee Hour / Agape Meals is welcomed!

At Coffee Hour please donate what you can in the donations box. \$2 per meal is suggested. We are in need of plates, cups, coffee, utensils, etc... Please donate!

To make a confession simply come early to any Divine Liturgy, stay after at any vespers service, or make an appointment.

Communion is for Orthodox Christians who have prepared by prayer, fasting from midnight on, reconciliation, and a recent confession. For the reception of communion it's also good to arrive on time to Divine Liturgy and not later than the reading of the Holy Gospel.

If you or someone is admitted into the hospital or needs emergency pastoral assistance, then please call Fr. Ambrose at 315-418-5738. Make sure to put Fr. Ambrose as one of your hospital contacts to ensure that he is easily able to come and visit.

Fr. Ambrose Wish List: sitting chairs for the library downstairs. Please see Georgia or Clare Flaherty for details.

Church school exams will be on Sunday, January 14th after the new year, followed by a sledding party.

Thankyou to all who contributed so generously to this year's Holiday Cookie Walk and Pierogie Sale. May God grant you all many years!

Important Upcoming Services and Events



Family Dinner

Monday, December 18th from 4:30pm to 6pm. Come and join us and help meet and be with our guests.

Christmas Eve Dinner

Sunday, December 24th at 4pm we will have a potluck parish lenten dinner followed by Christmas Eve Vigil. Singing of Christmas Carols.

Feast of the Nativity

Monday, December 25th at 9:30pm we will celebrate the Nativity of our Lord followed by a Festal Lunch, a gift exchange, and carols. .

St. Andrew's Camp Counselors Retreat

Dec. 30th to January 1st @ St. Andrew's Camp. See flyer in back of church for more details.

The Feast of Theophany and the Blessing of the Lake

On January 6th, we will celebrate the joyous feast of Theophany. Look for details coming of when we will bless Lake Oneida.

2023 Stewardship

Ss. Peter and Paul parish is supported entirely through the generosity of its members, friends, and benefactors.

If you are active in your support of Ss. Peter and Paul, thank you! If you are new to Ss. Peter and Paul and/or regularly attend, please consider making a regular offering (weekly or monthly) in support of our parish and its projects.

By contributing to the General Fund in 2023 you are supporting the mission and activities in the parish, which include divine services, outreach, evangelism, church school, parish social activities, community efforts, and many more. There are so many things that are happening at Ss. Peter and Paul and contributing to the General Fund helps to advance this mission.

The best way to give is by check (or cash) placed in an envelope in the offering baskets.. We also have an online giving system (Breeze) as a way to offer your tithes and offerings.

The Impactful Ministries of Ss. Peter and Paul

- Free Family Dinner for the entire community. 4th Monday of every month.
- Food Recovery Ministry: during the school semester a team of us recover up to 500 lbs of cooked food every week.
- Elementary School Outreach - we then take the recovered food and give it to families at local elementary schools.
- Church School Ministry - every Sunday, after Liturgy, during the school year, we have Church School lessons for grades pre-k through 12th.
- Hospitality Team Ministry
- Choral Ministry
- Senior Moment Lunches
- Altar Server Ministry
- Synaxis Meetings during Fasting Periods..
- Foundation Classes
- Ladies Nights
- Men's Fellowship Dinners and Outings
- Family Potluck Events
- Educational Field Trips for Children
- plus much more....

Please support the present and future ministry of Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church!

What's My Weekly Tithe?

Weekly Income	10%	5%	4%	2%
\$200	\$20	\$10	\$8	\$4
\$500	\$50	\$25	\$20	\$10
\$750	\$75	\$37	\$30	\$15
\$1,000	\$100	\$50	\$40	\$20
\$1,500	\$150	\$75	\$60	\$30
\$2,000	\$200	\$100	\$80	\$40

Nativity Homily by St. Philaret of Moscow

The New Adam comes forth from virgin earth. Woman, the source of the curse, bears the dew of blessing. The true Noah has appeared, Who shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed (Gen. 5:29). Melchizedek, without father, without mother, without descent (Heb. 7:3), comes to inherit the eternal Kingdom and Priesthood. The long night of fear and universal expectation finally passes, and the morning light penetrates the darkness of the Old Testament Sanctuary, opened not daily, but eternally to the East. The Heavenly Manna is poured forth from the vessel which contained it. The rod of Jesse blossoms forth in place of the fading rod of Aaron. Christ is born.

Come, meek shepherds, and kiss the Lamb and Shepherd—the Lamb, tended by the shepherd, and the Shepherd, Who is able to gather into one peaceful fold the lambs with the wolves, and the calves with the lions. Come, wise men, and bow down before the mystery of the ancient Child; learn from the unspeaking Word, taste of the angelic bread at the table of the speechless animals and see that the Lord is good. Choirs of heavenly hosts who have praised the Lord since the creation of the stars, double and triple your doxology before your Sun, Who has risen for us. Christ is born.

Christ is born in Bethlehem: is this the reason for all the present joy and all the glory to God in the highest? Glory to God: He is also born for us, unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given (Is. 9:6). Amid the celebration of His birth, the Church suffers pains of birth, until Christ be formed in us (cf. Gal. 4:19). Let us not disdain the joyful sorrow of our Mother: let us take at least a few traits from the image of the birth of Jesus and let us place them in our hearts.

Bethlehem was the ancestral home of the forefathers of Jesus: however, Joseph and Mary did not have even a poor hut, a piece of inherited land or a permanent residence. Providence, by the hand of Caesar, led them to this place from which, it was determined, would come a ruler of Israel (cf., Matt. 2:6). The foreigners in the land of the forefathers, the newcomers to their own homeland gave a homeland to the Son, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named (Eph. 3:15)—Christians! As long as we live in the world as satiated citizens and enjoy it as its masters, Christ cannot be formed in us. The world continually tries to stamp on our souls its passing images; satiated desires give birth to other desires which imperceptibly grow into giants and build Babylon. Blessed shall he be who shall seize and

(Continued pg. 2) dash the infants of this Babylon against the rock of faith and alienate himself from the city which exists here in order to see the one that is coming! If Abraham, at the command of God, had not departed from his land and his people, he would not have received the glorious testament, the promise, and the inheritance. If suffering Israel had not decided to endure the difficulties of a dangerous and unknown journey, Jehovah would not have strengthened it and prepared in it a dwelling-place for Himself. If the intuitive mother had not sent the innocent Jacob away from the vengeful Esau, he would not have come to the fearful place, the heavenly gates. Only the homeless strangers find Bethel and Bethlehem—the house of God and the house of the living Bread. Only the voluntary exiles of earth will be received as citizens of heaven. Whoever desires to be a dwelling place of the Son of God, must have his homeland only in God, and with all his ties to his earthly homeland, however natural and proper they may be, he must not compare it to the heavenly.

By taking nothing from this world for his birth, Jesus evidently wished to show that He had no personal possessions. The Carpenter received His name from His father; His mother, having carried Him in Her womb, could offer no other virtue for this service other than, by Her own admission, the sense of Her own unworthiness: For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden (Luke 1:48). He concealed His immeasurable eternity until the day of His birth. A manger became the throne for the King of kings, His robes—swaddling clothes, the first servants of the Kingdom—the shepherds of the flock. The power and wisdom of God were concealed in the infirmities of an infant. But who can measure the distance from the height of His Divine Essence to the depth of His belittlement? The finite mind is not able to comprehend His operations, neither His ascent higher than the heavens, nor His descent to the lowliness of fallen nature. Seeing such humility, what must a heart feel which desires to be formed after the image of Christ? Strength of mind, greatness of spirit, celebrity of deeds, privilege of rank! I am not deceived by you and do not envy those who are proud of you. There is no greater wisdom than to reject wisdom for the sake of Christ; there is no greater glory than to share dishonor with Jesus; there is no greater wealth than the poverty of Jesus. There is no other entrance to perfection and blessedness than through the infancy of Christ; there is no better adornment for the soul, in which He must dwell, than to see itself deprived of all adornment, like His manger. The current of Grace, like the flow of a river, steams into the vales;...

More:

http://arhiva.spc.rs/eng/homily_birth_christ_st_philaret_moscow_given_archimandrite_philaret_st_alexander_nevsky_lavra.html

Nativity Feast Day and Festal Meal

Monday, December 25th

9:30AM DIVINE
LITURGY
FOLLOWED BY A
FESTAL MEAL
AND SINGING OF
CAROLS

See you there!

